Stourbridge
CHRONICLE

Thursday, December 3, 2015 | Read by more than 57,000 people | Price when sold 60p

JAIL FOR KILLER IN A SPORTS CAR

Report by Amardeep Bassey

A DRUNK driver who was racing in a sports car when he crashed into a bus shelter killing a student has been put behind bars for eight years.

Sukvinder Mannan swerved into a bus lane and ploughed his Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution into 21-year-old best friends Rebecca McManus and Harriet Barnsley at 101mph in a 40mph zone.

After the crash, Mannan, who has previous convictions for drink-driving, had been 'aggressive and vociferous' towards emergency services staff called to the scene. He was arrested but later refused to give a blood sample.

BMW M3 driver Inderjit Singh, 31, who had pulled out of the race seconds before the impact, was jailed for one year at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Sukvinder Mannan

The 21-year-old victim, a former A-levels student at King Edward VI Sixth Form College in Stourbridge, was on her way to a party in Birmingham with her friend on May 31, 2014, when she was struck.

Miss McManus, from Oldbury, who was studying literature, drama and creative writing at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, died at the scene. Miss Barnsley spent four months in hospital after suffering 'life changing' injuries.

Garage manager Mannan, of Roundhills, Halesowen, remained impassive as judge Kristin Montgomery told him: "You drove with arrogant disregard and contempt for other road users and the indications, by your own admissions, is that you had been drinking alcohol.

"For around a mile you played cat and mouse driving at grossly excessive speeds and both of you were consumed by your competition. It was almost inevitable one of you would lose control and have a collision."

Mannan initially denied swerving into the bus lane and later claimed he had never seen the BMW let alone raced it. But he eventually pleaded guilty to two counts of causing death and serious injury by dangerous driving.

Turning to a tearful Singh, a computer engineer, of Cranbourne Avenue, Ettingshall, the judge said: "I sentence you for the way you drove up to the point that you withdrew from the race, a decision you took split seconds before Mannan crashed. You encouraged Mannan to speed."

Singh had been acquitted of two counts of causing death and serious injury by dangerous driving by a jury last week but had admitted dangerous driving.

CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO SAVE COMMUNITY PUB

Stourbridge and Halesowen CAMRA pubs protection officer Si Genner outside The Bird in Hand pub, in Hagley Road, Oldswinford

A PUB campaigner has urged people in Oldswinford to come together to save a landmark pub before it is too late.

Stourbridge and Halesowen CAMRA's pub protection officer Si Genner has urged residents to come out in support of The Bird in Hand.

Mr Genner fears the Hagley Road boozer could be the next to be targeted by developers and potentially turned into something else, such as a shop.

Dozens of pubs have faced the same fate across the Black Country in recent months.

Mr Genner wants to get 'Asset of Community Value' status assigned to the watering hole so it has more protection against future development.

But he said he needs more backing from the community to make sure the application to Dudley Council for the status to protect the pub is successful.

Mr Genner said: "This is an iconic building in the area and already locally listed by the council. People in the community need to be aware of what potentially could happen to that pub if they don't help save it.

"We want whoever uses the pub to come forward and tell us so we can help them save the pub by getting the ACV status. CAMRA can only do so much ourselves – it's down to the locals and they really need to act as soon as possible.

"If they start doing that then they could potentially save the pub from whatever developers want to do with it."

While Mr Genner could submit an application himself, he said the proposal would be strengthened if he can show the level of support. He can be contacted on 07757 083543.

ACCIDENT

Appeal to find driver after road tragedy

A MAN has died after being hit by a car in Amblecote. The 66-year-old was treated by paramedics at the scene in High Street but died later.

Officers were called to the junction of Brettell Lane at around 6.50pm on Sunday following reports that a car had hit a man.

Police are appealing to the driver of a dark 4x4 to come forward. A 25-year-old man, who was the driver of a red Vauxhall Corsa, was arrested on suspicion of death by dangerous driving. He was later released on police bail. West Midlands Police are appealing for information on 101.

DEATH

Pensioner hit by car at hospital has died

A PENSIONER hit by a car on a hospital car park has died from his injuries.

Ivan Tranter, aged 83, suffered head injuries when a vehicle reversed into him at Russells Hall Hospital where he had an appointment on November 3.

He received treatment and was released from hospital. Later his condition deteriorated and he died in hospital in Birmingham on Friday.

Police have spoken to the driver involved and are appealing for witnesses to come forward. Call police on 101.

COURT

Doormen are held after man is killed

TWO doormen have been charged with murder after the death of a man at a charity event being held at Samsons Banqueting Suite in Rood End Road, Oldbury, on November 22.

Nicolas Salhan, aged 36, from Haybridge Avenue, Stourbridge, and Jonathan Davies, 42, of Old Bridge Walk, Rowley Regis, have been charged with the murder of Mr Inderjit Singh Dhariwal, a 49-year-old father from Langley, and appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Monday.

The pair were remanded in custody and are due to appear before the court again in April.

INSIDE

MOVE TO SAVE STRIKE HISTORY

PAGE 8

CONTENTS

MARK ANDREWS	6
LETTERS	7
MEMORY LANE	8
CLUBS	10
THE FAST TICKET	23
PUZZLES	30
MOTORING	31
SPORT	39 & 40

CONTACT US

EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205
E-mail: dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC:
Tel: John Sambrooks 01902 319431

ADVERTISING: Sue Jones
Tel: 01384 399901
E-mail: sue.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

PROPERTY: Marguerita Finnegan
Tel: 01902 319627
E-mail: marguerita.finnegan@expressandstar.co.uk

MOTORING: Liz Barratt
Tel: 01384 353244
E-mail: liz.barratt@expressandstar.co.uk

CLASSIFIED:
Tel: 01902 317878
E-mail: my-classified@expressandstar.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

Stourbridge CHRONICLE

51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES
Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm
www.yourchronicle.com

Last chance for campaign to save venue

CAMPAIGNERS hoping to rescue Dudley Hippodrome from the wrecker's ball have one last chance to save the landmark venue.

Proposals revealed by Dudley Council earlier last week threaten the end for the historic theatre on Castle Hill by bulldozing it to be replaced with a landscaped public space.

However, after a meeting with the council on Friday, Friends of Dudley Hippodrome chairman Gordon Downing said the group had been given until the end of the year to form a 'viable business plan' to redevelop the Hippodrome.

Mr Downing said: "We've been given until the end of December to come up with a viable business plan filling in all the areas they want filled in.

"In that time we've got to get together a professional looking plan in some form or other. I'd like to appeal to anybody out there if they can help us draw up that plan."

Councillors will be asked at a meeting today (Thu) about whether to submit their planning application for flattening the building and replacing it with a landscaped public space.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said members had considered a number of proposals for the building in the past five years, but all alternatives had failed.

However, he said that if someone comes to the authority with a firm, viable proposal to redevelop the theatre then the council will still consider this – even as their own proposal to knock down the building progresses.

Councillor Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "We want to see the Hippodrome brought back to life, if it can be. But no-one has come forward with a business plan that showed they could actually bring it back into use as a theatre.

"If, at any stage, someone comes to us with a firm plan – with the money needed – then obviously we will look at it. If the Friends group suddenly come to us with £10 million to redevelop the Hippodrome why wouldn't we want to do that? But they've been working for three years on a plan and nothing has come forward."

Outrage at scheme to demolish Hippodrome

THE founder of the new Dudley Civic Society has hit out at Dudley Council over its plans to demolish the town's Hippodrome theatre.

Despite a lengthy campaign by supporters to see it restored to its former glory, council chiefs want to pull the historic theatre down and replace it with an outdoor exhibition area.

It comes just weeks after interested parties were given the chance to put forward proposals to redevelop the venue but these applications failed to convince council planners.

Steve Briscoe, who is forming a society to safeguard the town's heritage, has slammed the plans, saying it contradicts what the council has previously said about boosting tourism.

Historic

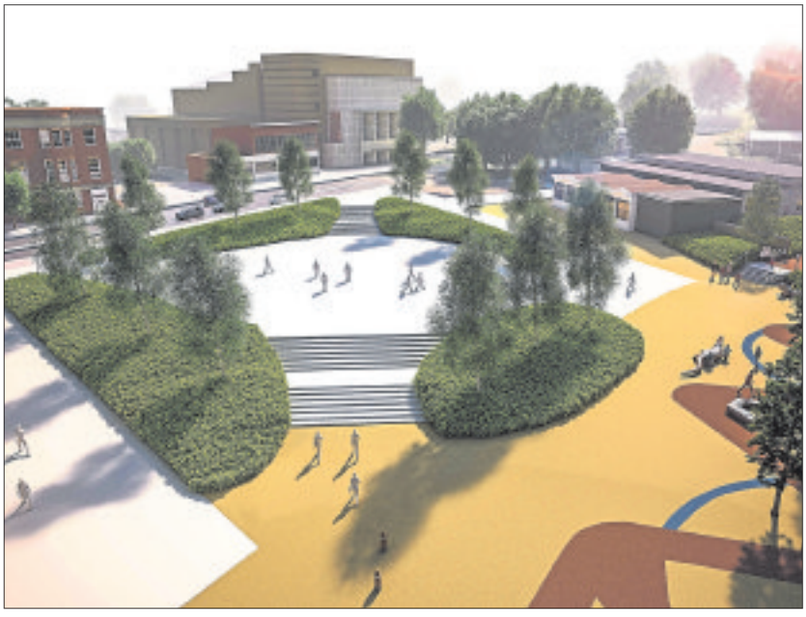
He said: "I think it's disgusting the way the council has gone about this decision. The Dudley area is being promoted as a place of tourism, but how can this be when they're knocking down one of its most historic landmarks?

"The Black Country Museum has been done up and the Hippodrome could have complimented it very well if it was to be revamped. I just can't believe how short sighted the council has been. They've shown no passion or ambition for this project and I feel to knock the Hippodrome down just undermines Dudley town further. They're using austerity as a weapon and it's a very sad situation to be in."

A leading campaigner said he fears that £1 million of taxpayers' money will be to be used to flatten the 1930s-built venue, which once hosted such stars as Laurel and Hardy and George Formby.

Dudley Council revealed last week that it would seek to knock down the theatre to create an 'open space' near the entrance to Dudley Zoo on Castle Hill.

Malcolm Palmer, who founded the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group alongside the late Geoff Fitzpatrick, said it was 'terrible' news having only learned of its fate after reading about it in the Express & Star.



An artist's impression of the plan for the Hippodrome site, looking towards the old cinema on Dudley's Castle Hill

Dudley Council is yet to reveal how much it will cost to demolish the theatre but Mr Palmer claimed those costs could spiral.

"It will cost a lot to demolish it with the asbestos— this is at a time when the council is looking to make cuts. I think it could cost maybe £1m at a time when they are supposed to be cutting back."

Gordon Downing, chairman of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome, said: "This is absolutely diabolical. To come out and pronounce it like this is disgraceful.

"If they think we're walking away from this without a fight then they've got another thing coming."

The council move, which is being discussed by its cabinet today (Thu), marks the latest – and perhaps final – twist in the long-running saga to try to bring the venue back into use.

The former theatre and bingo hall would be bulldozed with a sweeping open public space in its place.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said members had considered a number of proposals for the building in the past five year.

He said: "This has been a long-running issue and we have fully explored every suggested alternative use submitted so far. But after giving people every opportunity we need to draw a line under this. The cost of securing the building is also hitting taxpayers in the pocket and we cannot continue to bear the costs of consultants to appraise unviable projects."

● Final Curtain – Page 6

Sir Lenny is to pave the way in his home town

SIR Lenny Henry will be in Dudley next week to unveil his MOBO Awards paving stone in his home town.

The MOBO (Music of Black Origin) Paving The Way award, which celebrates trailblazers and the influential in music and the arts, was presented to Sir Lenny at the awards ceremony earlier this month.

Recipients of the award are honoured with a permanent paving stone laid in a place which has shaped them. It is intended as a way of shining a light on their achievements to inspire generations to come.

Sir Lenny has chosen for his paving stone to be laid at Buffery Park, which is near the home where he grew up. It MOBO slab will be unveiled on Wednesday, December 9.

The actor and comedian had the audience on its feet during his award acceptance speech at the ceremony in Leeds as he said he 'could only have got here from standing on the shoulders of giants'.

He went on to name-check famous names from Bob Marley to Michael Jackson and 'that bloke from the Halifax advert' while accepting the Paving The Way award.

Lenny said: "It's an honour to say you've paved the way for people because my career isn't over. I don't feel like anything's finished yet."

He added: "It's a huge honour. I'm very, very happy. It's wonderful."

Lenny Henry is already a freeman of Dudley borough and a CBE. He was one of the founders of Comic Relief.

Merry Hill now trumps Bullring

BRIERLEY Hill's Intu Merry Hill is the top West Midlands shopping centre in a new guide.

Trevor Wood Associates' Going Shopping 2016: The Definitive Guide to Shopping Centres has Merry Hill is in eighth place nationally, ahead of Birmingham's Bullring in 14th and The Telford Shopping Centre in 20th. The Bullring has slipped two places from 12th last year.

London area shopping centres Westfield Stratford City, Bluewater and Westfield London were at the top of the table.

The researchers examined all 764 shopping centres in the UK.

LaSalle retained its position as leading owner/investment manager and Merry Hill owner Intu Properties number one direct property owner.

Laughing to feel better with yoga

A SESSION of laughter yoga takes place Wordsley Community Centre on Thursday, December 14. Instructor Maggie Thompson aims to give the opportunity to let go of inhibitions and laugh together with deep breathing exercises in a group. The class starts at 7pm.

Christmas lights set for grand switch-on

STOURBRIDGE will be full of festive fun and seasonal shopping when the town hosts its Christmas lights switch-on on Saturday.

Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho, will conduct the official switch-on of the lights at 5pm.

Before the town is lit up, there will be lots of entertainment and activities from 11am in High Street, Market Street, Coventry Street, Duke Street, Crown Square and the Ryemarket.

Stourbridge's Christmas market runs from 9am to 5pm and there will be a funfair, entertainment, steam engines, a miniature steam train and Father Christmas.

The event is organised by Dudley Council in conjunction with Stourbridge Chamber of Trade and Ryemarket Shopping Centre.

David Harcourt, chairman of Stourbridge Chamber of Trade, said: "We continue to build on last year's success and there will more stalls and more activities at this event."

"We are looking forward to the train ride up and down Coventry Street which will be a great attraction for the children and maybe even some of the adults too. There will be lots of music and food to eat, so it will be a great day out for the family."

He added: "St Thomas' Church is also having a special Christmas tree event to coincide with our festival."

A road closure will be in place from 6am to 8pm for Coventry Street, High Street, Duke Street and Market Street from the junction of Bell Street/Talbot Street to High Street.

Pints to perms at former pub

A FORMER pub in Wordsley has been turned into a hair and beauty lounge.

GQ Hair Tanning and Beauty Lounge was opened in Wordsley last week by owner Andrew Price, following six months of renovation and refurbishment at the former Nags Head pub in Swan Lane.

Mr Price, aged 42 from Wombourne, said: "I had been looking for 12 months for a decent sized shop. The pub wasn't doing anything and this estate is quite big and there wasn't a barber shop close by.

"It is a new adventure we have got some really good qualified staff working for us."

The shop features a beauty salon, a men's only barber section and a ladies' section, plus reception.

Santa has set up his grotto at zoo

THE latest addition to Dudley Zoo is... Santa! Father Christmas arrived on Tuesday to meet youngsters in his grotto at the Castle Hill attraction. He will be at the zoo every day until Christmas Eve, from 10am to 4pm.

Kings Eds student gets England call-up

Grace Smith is to play for England U17s

PROUD mum Sarah Holland-Smith has told how the tears flooded when the news broke that footballing daughter Grace Smith had been called up the the England under-17s squad.

Villa midfielder Smith, 16, a sixth form student at King Edwards College in Stourbridge, caught the headlines last year when she made the move across the Black Country divide to sign from Albion.

After a year with Villa's under-17s, Smith has received national attention and a place in John Griffith's squad.

Her mum Sarah said: "Chloe received an email letting her know that she's been called up and then the tears started. I must admit they were mainly mine, we called her grandad and he cried on the phone.

"We're over the moon — so delighted we're stopping strangers in the street to tell them. It doesn't get much better than being selected to represent your country and Grace has worked really hard for it."

The former pupil at Bridgnorth's Oldbury Wells school is set to fly out to Germany on December 13 to participate in a three-team tournament against France and Germany.

Smith was scouted during her performances for Villa this season, and at three England training camps in October at Bisham Abbey, where they were trained under the scrutiny of the English staff.

Sarah said: "She's been training twice a week but that's gone up to three times now and then there's matches on Saturdays.

"It's been pretty intense for her since she was eight. This kind of news makes it all worthwhile."

More than 300 Caparo jobs saved in new deal

THREE hundred Black Country jobs have been saved at struggling steel giant Caparo.

Caparo Tubular Solutions, which has bases in Oldbury and Bilston, has been bought by the Gupta family who run the Simec and Liberty House groups.

The deal means 333 jobs have been saved, 300 of which are in the Black Country.

The deal to save CTS has been welcomed by union bosses, councillors and MPs across the Black Country.

Sandwell Council leader Darren Cooper said: "This is great news for the workers, particularly against the backdrop of recent bad news associated with the firm. We welcome the new owners and will be making efforts to see if we can help in any way."

Harish Patel, national officer for the union Unite, said: "Unite will be working with the new owners to ensure jobs are secured in the UK for the long term. We will also be seeking assurances and commitments from the new owners on investment and training which is so crucial to sustaining skilled, well-paid jobs in our manufacturing sector."

CTS includes Caparo Precision Tubes in Oldbury, Caparo Tube Components and Caparo Accles and Pollock, also based in Oldbury, Hub Le Bas in Bilston, and Caparo Tubes Tredegar in Wales. It has not been confirmed how many jobs have been saved at each site.

Administration

The deal brings the number of Caparo jobs saved since the firm went into administration to 488. The firm went into administration in October, initially putting up to 1,700 jobs in the Black Country at risk.

A total of 245 jobs went at Darlaston-based Caparo Atlas Fastenings, Caparo Forging Europe in Dudley and Caparo Fairbright Wire in West Bromwich, which all closed. Plants in Cradley Heath and Oldbury saw 78 jobs go.

Meanwhile, Chancellor George Osborne on Monday visited the Jaguar Land Rover plant on the outskirts of Wolverhampton after announcing a new research consortium led by JLR will receive a £16.6m grant to develop a more efficient transmission system. This grant will be matched by private funding, bringing the total funding to over £33m.

It will create 60 roles in research and development and could lead to the creation of a further 130 manufacturing and engineering roles.

Must serve his time — father-of-three Ian Guy, who ran a £250,000-a-year business selling fake logo clothing from his garage via eBay

T-shirt fraudster appeal is rejected

A FRAUDSTER who sold £250,000 worth of counterfeit famous name T-shirts to buyers across the world from his garage in Stourbridge has been told by top judges that his two-year jail term is fully deserved.

Father-of-three Ian Guy, aged 38, of John Corbett Drive, was jailed at Wolverhampton Crown Court on May 27 after he admitted fraudulent trading and six trademark offences. He had sold fakes from his garage via online auction site eBay. Guy was also ordered to pay back £130,000, which he has now done.

He appealed against the length of his sentence.

The Appeal Court last week heard that he had no previous convictions, a young family and had made 'good progress' in custody.

His barrister said he had 'suffered long-lasting damage' as a result of his crimes and his jail term was 'unnecessarily long'.

Mr Justice Kerr, sitting with Lord Justice Treacy and Mrs Justice Carr, dismissed the appeal, saying Guy's punishment was neither wrong in principle nor manifestly excessive.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cup tie tickets sell out in record time

TICKETS for Stourbridge's FA Cup clash with Eastleigh on Saturday afternoon sold out in record time.

Spokesman Richard Clark said: "We would like to thank all our supporters old and new who have made a great effort in purchasing their tickets in just a few days"

Victory could give Glassboys a shot at a big money draw against a top club.

Meanwhile, Stourbridge have been drawn against neighbours Kidderminster Harriers in the FA Trophy, the team they beat in the FA Cup six weeks ago.

Festivities come to the glass cone

AN exhibition called 'Twas the Night before Christmas' designed by artists resident at the Red House Glass Cone in Stourbridge will give visitors a chance to buy a Christmas gift with a difference.

The festive display includes a room setting with a brass bed, stocking and a Christmas tree and will to open between 10am and 4pm.

Handmade items including glassware, pottery, silk scarves, candles and jewellery will be available to buy.

For further information see www.redhouseglasscone.co.uk

MP is available at supermarket

DUDLEY South MP Mike Wood will be holding an open advice surgery at Sainsbury's in Merry Hill on Friday, December 18. Conservative Mr Wood will be at the Sainsbury's Café from 2pm onwards.

He said: "Most of the advice surgeries I hold are normally by appointment only. But I tried this concept in October and it was very popular. If constituents have an issue they would like to discuss then they should turn up on the day."

Group take a look at town's changing face

THE changing face of Stourbridge will be the subject of the next meeting of the town's historical society.

Two films about the town in the 1960s and 70s made by the late Chris Gittins will be screened on Thursday, December 10.

Meetings of Stourbridge Historical Society are held in the Wollaston Room at Stourbridge Town Hall at 7.30pm.

Annual subscription is £10, while admission for visitors is £3.

Brewery to help dogs

A STOURBRIDGE brewery is holding an event raising funds for an animal sanctuary. The Green Duck Brewery at its Badelynge Bar, in Rugfford Road, will be helping Wythall Animal Sanctuary, which re-homes dogs, with a charity raffle on Saturday, December 12, between noon to 7pm.

Kitchens to suit all budgets

A beautiful range of kitchens from modern style with Corian worktops and moulded sinks, to more traditional styles with granite worktops and Belfast sinks

Over 30 years of experience in the design and installation of quality kitchen furniture

Also available: replacement doors, worktops, sinks and appliances

FITTED KITCHEN SPECIALISTS

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM WE HAVE 12 STYLES OF KITCHENS ON DISPLAY

155 Bridgnorth Road, Wollaston, Stourbridge

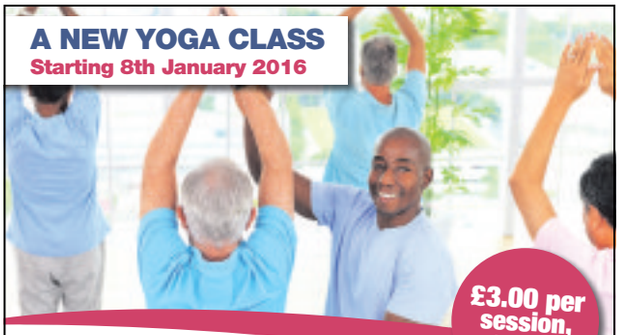
01384 443432

www.ajldesign.co.uk

AJL DESIGN

A NEW YOGA CLASS

Starting 8th January 2016



£3.00 per session, including tea or coffee

11.15am to 12.30pm

at the Elton Centre, off Parkland Road

Ideal for those completely new to yoga or with experience.

Learn postures and gentle flowing sequences in a friendly, welcoming atmosphere.

The Elton Centre, St Johns Road, Stourbridge DY8 1EJ

Ring for information 01384 443296

AGE Concern STOURBRIDGE

It's time to put your foot down on fungal nail infection!

Tej & Co

Research shows that laser treatment is a safe and effective procedure, with some studies reporting a success rate of up to 90% at three months!

By using advanced medical lasers that penetrate into the nail bed we can now treat and cure your fungal nail infection. It is now possible to get amazing results.

Our Introductory Offer

One Hand / Foot Offer price £100 Normal Price £150

Both Hands / Feet Offer price £150 Normal Price £200

58B South Road, Norton, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 3YB

Call us: 01384 824039 email us: info@tejandco.co.uk

visit us at: www.tejandco.co.uk

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

HOW long does technology have to be around before it appears in our dreams? A reader relates a panicky nightmare. She needed to send a text message on her smartphone but was wearing huge, unremovable mittens.

IN the opening episode of the Beeb's new drama series, Capital, it was allegedly Christmas Eve in London yet the sun was high in the sky and the trees were in the full leaf that goes with a green and balmy season. This "Christmas" was obviously filmed in summer. Do such errors matter? Yes, they do. These days, no-one writes drama purely to entertain. There is always a message and an agenda. In Capital we are introduced to the wickedness of the banking industry, the greed of property developers, the gulf between rich and poor, the unkindness of the immigration system and the anger of young Muslims. We assume that what we see has been well researched. But if they can't even get the seasons right, why should we believe any of the rest?

RESEARCH in Russia suggests people who play classical musical instruments such as the cello and harp, live longer than those twanging away on electric guitars. As the journal Advances in Gerontology puts it, instruments associated with "higher intellect and education" go with a longer lifespan. I fear we ukulele players are not long for this world. Higher intellect and education are not usually associated with My Little Stick of Blackpool Rock. Worryingly, George Formby only made it to 56.

BENEDICT Cumberbatch plays a fashion model of indeterminate sex in Zoolander 2. For this he has been denounced in an online petition thus: "Cumberbatch's character is clearly portrayed as an over-the-top, cartoonish mockery of androgyne/trans/non-binary individuals." Who'd be a pantomime dame?

IT'S good to see Timothy West and Prunella Scales back in a third series of Great Canal Journeys (C4) but the title is hardly inspiring. How about "Tim and Pru Go Bashing Into Things"? West has apparently been a canal fan for 30 years yet seems fated to hit anything in his path, be it lock, bollard or someone else's boat. There's a sudden wallop and West exclaims brightly: "Sorry, bit of wind there." Finding yourself confronted by a pair of national treasures, what can you do but smile sweetly and hope your insurance is in order? The most terrifying thing you can hear on the Grand Union is the skipper on the approaching narrowboat saying: "Fancy taking the helm, Tim?"

THE British Army's new rapid-response brigades won't be ready for ten years. The Royal Regiment of Oxymorons?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Charity helps American family enjoy Thanksgiving

A VOLUNTARY service's annual Santa toy appeal operation hit a new high this week by helping a mother and her children thousands of miles away on the west coast of America.

Dudley Council for Voluntary Service, based in Albion Street, has been collecting and distributing toys and gifts at Christmas for thousands of children in the Dudley area for 40 years.

A post on their Operation Santa Facebook page generated a plea from a lady named Michelle, in Santa Paula, Ventura County, California, who is unable to work and lives in a van.

She wanted to know if the Operation Santa team could help as she 'could not give her children any kind of Christmas and would dearly love to provide them with a proper Christmas meal'.

Eileen Fielding, manager at Operation Santa, replied by posting a message via Facebook, even though she was 7,000 miles away.

Mission

A Dudley woman responded saying she knew of a project for homeless people in Ventura County, sending a link to Rescue Mission of Ventura.

Within a few hours Michelle and her children were enjoying a Thanksgiving Day meal with a local family.

Rescue Mission of Ventura have also promised to help Michelle and her children celebrate Christmas too.

Ms Fielding said: "Everyone knows Santa is a magical figure, but even the great man himself would struggle to top this truly wonderful combination of social media technology and good old-fashioned love and compassion.

"We are calling it a Miracle on Albion Street," she added.

Paramedics staff boost ready for festive season

By Richard Guttridge

WEST Midlands Ambulance Service will have more staff than ever in the run-up to the hectic Christmas and New Year period.

The service, which has its headquarters at The Waterfront in Brierley Hill, will be backed by more than 2,500 operational staff as bosses prepare for their most demanding time of year.

The workforce has been boosted by additional student and graduate paramedics.

The West Midlands Ambulance Service received 1,436 calls on New Year's Eve last year and experienced its busiest day ever in December.

Chiefs say the extra staff will be crucial to ensure the service is able to cope with the surge in demand.

Emergency services director Craig Cooke said: "There is little doubt that the winter is likely to be an incredibly difficult one, so the fact that we have so many more staff joining our teams is great news."

Recruit

Director of workforce Kim Nurse added: "We are continuing to recruit additional paramedics and provide training for other staff to progress towards higher levels of clinical care. We have made excellent progress and these new joiners demonstrate just how hard our recruitment and training departments have been working to attract and train high calibre staff."

Chief executive Anthony Marsh told a recent accountability meeting that the West Midlands service was not suffering staffing pressures that its counterparts elsewhere were because it 'grew its own paramedics'.

He said: "The West Midlands Ambulance Service is the only ambulance service achieving every single response time target. The other nine are failing to achieve all of them, some are only achieving one or two. That does not happen by accident, that it because of the commitment of our staff.

Spotlight falls on villages' 'lost sons'

Joy Marshall, right, and fellow researcher Lis Corfield with a book on those named on the memorial at St Mary's Church

A BOOK looking at the lives of men from Wall Heath and Kingswinford who were killed in wartime is complete after three years of research.

Joy Marshall and her husband Guy estimate that they spent thousands of hours searching through the records to find out more about the men who went to war but didn't return alive.

The book, called The Lost Sons of Wall Heath and Kingswinford, chronicles the lives of the men listed on the war memorial in Wall Heath.

Joy first became intrigued with the men as a child when she would waiting for the bus opposite the memorial. In 2012, a successful bid for Heritage Lottery Funding to the Wall Heath and Kingswinford War Memorials Research Group meant that she could finally find out about the village's lost generation.

The £13,000 grant paid for printing and publishing costs as well as helping with the many hours spent researching the men's past, trawling through civic and newspaper archives and websites as well as chatting to some of the victim's relatives.

Joy, aged 61, said: "It's not just a book about the war, it's about the men and who they were."

The book features 108 men who lost their lives in the conflicts with photographs of around half of them.

The book is on sale at John Sparry's book shop in Enville Road, Wall Heath, from December 5 and can be ordered by calling Joy Marshall on 07739 572121.

Tips on how to tackle the problem of condensation

FAMILIES in Dudley can get free advice to help tackle the problem of condensation in their homes.

Condensation is caused when warm moist air comes into contact with cold air or cold surface, such as a window or wall, and causes water droplets to form.

Due to cold weather this is particularly an issue during winter when homes are warmer than outside.

Dudley Council has produced leaflets offering hints and tips about how to tackle the issue, as well as facts and figures.

Councillor Gaye Partridge, cabinet member for housing, said:"Condensation and mould can be a particular problem during the winter months so we decided to produce a leaflet and video.

"These items have been produced primarily with council tenants in mind, but are relevant to anyone experiencing condensation in their home.

"It is easy to tackle condensation by just following the hints put forward in this, including keeping vents clear, heating the property sufficiently, drying clothes outside and reducing the amount of steam created by daily routines.

"By following this advice you may even be able to save money on your fuel bills."

Tenants who are concerned that issues with damp are not due to condensation should call the Repairs Management Centre on 0300 555 8283.

Apartments plan for a former pub

A VANDAL-HIT former pub in Dudley will be converted into homes under new plans.

Seven apartments would be created at the New Golden Cross in Cradley Road in the proposals put forward by L & S Hussain.

Designs have been submitted to Dudley Council which will decide within the next three months whether to grant planning permission. The application says the building has been targeted by both vandals and thieves.

The developer says the 'key features' of the building, such as the double entrance doors, slender window bars and stone 'Golden Cross' detail will be retained as part of the redevelopment as homes. Neighbouring residents and businesses have been consulted.

Society to mark 70th anniversary at concert

DUDLEY Choral Society's Christmas concert also marks its 70th anniversary. Works by Dvorak, Handel and Menotti will be performed at St Mark's Church, Pensnett, on December 12, 7.30pm. Tickets £5 in aid of the Rose Window Restoration Fund.

GASWAY Ltd.
Est 1976
safe register
For complete peace of mind and a friendly service, why not visit Gasway in Lower High Street, Stourbridge DY8 1TA. 01384 372246
find us on facebook

Open since 1976 Gasway has been your first choice for Gas Fires, Surrounds, Cookers and much more, all at competitive prices.
Why not visit Dave, Jon and the team today for FREE expert advice and quotes.
- Cookers Supplied and Fitted
- Gas Fires and Fire Surrounds
- Electric Fires and Fire suites
- Servicing Spare Parts
- Central Heating Systems Supplied and Fitted
- Fire Guards / Companion Sets
- All at competitive Prices

- Free standing gas stoves
- Natural gas or lpg
- Can be fitted into class 1, class 2 and pre cast flues
- Flue and venting options
- Manual control with integral ignition
- Log fuel bed
- Up to 78% efficient
- 3.6k output

severnvalleystoves
There's never been a better time to switch to a log burner
Call now for a Home Visit
HETAS

- Fireplace alterations
- Full installation service available
- Free home surveys

www.severnvalleystoves.com
Wollaston Road, Stourbridge DY8 4HE
01384 390 183

More than 50 die while waiting for a transplant

HUNDREDS of patients across the West Midlands are waiting for potentially life-saving organ transplants.

NHS Blood and Transplant has launched its national winter campaign aiming at increasing the number of people on the donor register.

Across the region there are 388 people on the UK's waiting list for a transplant and 159 have been waiting longer than two years. Fifty of them have been left in limbo for more than five years.

There are 118 patients in the Black Country on the transplant waiting list and in the period covered by the release 2011-present, 56 people in the Black Country have died before they got the organ they were waiting for.

Sally Johnson, NHS Blood and Transplant Director of Organ Donation and Transplantation said: "Statistically, more than one in ten people on the waiting list will die before they get the transplant they need.

"For some organs, the picture is significantly bleaker. More than one in four people waiting for lungs will die.

"I'd ask you to imagine how you'd feel if someone close to you was waiting for a transplant; their whole life on hold, hoping someone will donate to save them.

"I'm sure we'd all hope an organ would be available to help someone we love – so shouldn't we all pledge to be organ donors so more lives can be saved?"

To join the NHS Organ Donor Register go to the organdonation.nhs.uk website or call 0300 123 2323.

Names sought for new glass museum

PEOPLE in Stourbridge and surrounding areas are being asked to name the new glass museum.

The British Glass Foundation wants residents to put forward suggestions for the new museum which is being built on the site of the former Stuart Crystal glassworks site in Wordsley. It is due to open in 2017.

Graham Knowles, chairman of the British Glass Foundation, said: "The choice of name and logo is crucial in helping to establish and maintain the image of the new museum as a global brand. It is only proper that the people of Stourbridge and the wider world of glass should now be offered the opportunity to have their say." The closing date is February 29, email bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk

Christmas fair is held at village hall

A FESTIVE table top sale and fair is taking place at a village hall near Stourbridge. Stourton Village Hall, in Bridgnorth Road, is hosting the Christmas fundraiser on Saturday from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Football centre put on market for £1m

A FIVE-A-SIDE football centre in the Black Country has been put up for sale for £1 million.

But the future of football at the Goals Soccer Centre in Rowley Regis has been assured despite the potential change in ownership at the venue.

Goals has a 55-year lease to host football at the centre in Cakemore Road. The centre is due to be put up for auction on December 8 and carries a guide price of £1 million.

Goals currently pays nearly £52,000 a year in rent. The site covers 4.3 acres and includes 12 pitches as well as a sports pavilion and car park.

There is a bar and spacious seating area near the entrance to the building, while a function suite and children's party room can also be hired.

Goals Soccer Centre has an established reputation among amateur football players in the Black Country for its floodlit all-weather outdoor pitches which are accredited by the Football Association.

Earlier this month, Goals Soccer Centre issued its second profits warning in matter of weeks as its autumn growth targets fell short of expectations.

Washout

The company, which has another site in Willenhall, warned over profits in September after a washout summer. That announcement led to the company losing one fifth of its stock market value.

Goals' futuristic five-a-side football complex created 25 jobs when it was built in 2008. The site used to be home to both football and bowls teams, with a pitch and green.

But it had been vacant for years and became an overgrown eyesore before Dudley Council's gave the green light to plans for a revamp in late 2007.

After concerns were raised by Sport England about the loss of the natural-grass full-size football pitch, developers promised to bring the site back into use for local 11-a-side teams to use as part of the deal.

At the time Goals managing director Keith Rogers said: "The sports ground had fallen into disrepair and has been overgrown for a number of years. A £2 million investment in sporting facilities has got to be a big plus for the area."

£500k will be spent on improving housing

THOUSANDS of people living on housing estates in Dudley will see their homes benefit from a new £500,000 cash pot.

The money has been set aside to improve facilities on housing estates across the borough. Four projects are already set to benefit.

Communal entrance doors and lighting at Kates Hill will be upgraded along with parking facilities added for six bungalows in Saltwells Road, Netherton.

A block of garages will be demolished at Round House Road and the entrance to flats in Chawn Hill Close, Stourbridge, will also be upgraded.

Dudley Council's housing services has set aside a yearly budget to fund initiatives, which have been approved by the housing board, and the Dudley Federation of Tenants' and Residents' Association.

Councillor Gaye Partridge, cabinet member for housing, said: "As a community council we want as many tenants involved in making the decision as to where funds are spent as possible."

Assist

She explained that the money enables representatives from the housing board, Dudley Federation and residents to indicate where they believe money could be used to assist community projects.

"This money can only be invested in projects proposed and supported by the community," she added.

"This is great news for everyone living on our estates as it ensures that their wishes are taken into account."

The group assesses each bid against a qualifying criteria before deciding whether to support the application for funding.

The changes were introduced following a review of the council's working practises and each idea is prioritised in order of importance.

Housing managers can also commission low value projects – up to 20 per cent of the fund – which the council hopes will speed up improvements.

Dudley Federation of Tenants' and Residents' Association was set up in 1991 to support council tenants and residents.The group also offers advice and guidance.

Members, with the help of the council, can also distribute funding.

Fizzog grannies now a work of art

The painting of the Fizzogs on display at the 87th annual exhibition by the Dudley Society of Artists

COMEDY trio The Fizzogs have been immortalised in art and have taken pride of place on the wall at an annual art exhibition in Dudley.

The exhibition by the Dudley Society of Artists, now in its 87th year, opened this month and will run until February 7, 2016.

Painted in oil and acrylics by chairman of the Dudley Society of Artists, Keith Turley, the picture captures actresses Sue Hawkins, Jacky Fellows and Deb Nicholls as 'The Critics'.

Formed in 2000, the comedy troupe focus their humour on Black Country characters and their famous dancing grannies sketch went viral on the internet after their performance at Stourbridge Carnival.

Mr Turley, from Wall Heath, has more than 30 years experience as an art teacher before he retired from teaching to concentrate on painting. He said: "It was a pleasure to paint the Fizzogs and immortalise them through the power of paint for the people of Dudley to see. I've concentrated on painting many comedy figures over the years and to have this painting of a local act exhibited is fantastic."

The art exhibition is running at Dudley and Museum and Art Gallery, which if facing closure as part of Dudley Council money-saving cuts.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Healthy wraps at Merry Hill centre

FUSION food chain Wrapchic is to open its latest site at Intu Merry Hill before Christmas.

The business, which specialises in healthy wraps, which was founded by Mahesh Raikar in 2012 and has grown from one site in a central Birmingham to having outlets in high streets, hospitals and universities

David Walton, Wrapchic's head of retail, said the business was proving a huge success and as well as locations, such as Merry Hill shopping centre, it was also looking at launching abroad, including Dubai and New York.

Three days of fun for Leah's charity

A THREE-day charity event is raising funds for the treatment of a five-year-old girl with cerebral palsy.

The Leah's Wish campaign has been set up to raise £35,000 for Leah Davy from Rowley Regis.

Leah, who was born three months premature at Russells Hall Hospital, has spastic diplegia which means she is unable to walk.

The three-day event is at The Royal Harji Bhaji, Dudley Road, Rowley Regis, from tomorrow (Friday) to Sunday. Events include a darts competition, karaoke and open mic night.

Retro restaurant brings 50s style

A RETRO 1950s-style American diner is opening at Merry Hill shopping centre on Monday.

The Ed's Easy Diner at Intu Merry Hill will feature 1950s decor, a menu offering burgers, hotdogs and shakes, and a jukebox featuring hits from the rock 'n' roll era. Customers will be able to watch their food being prepared in an open kitchen.

On the lower mall, it is the latest in a chain with restaurants in the Bullring and Grand Central, Birmingham.

Chance to see funny side at comedy nights

COMEDIENNE and actress Jo Enright, who has appeared in Trollied, Life's Too Short and The Job Lot, is top of the bill at Fitz of Laughter Comedy Club at Katie Fitzgerald's pub in Enville Street, Stourbridge, tomorrow (Fri) from 8.30pm. Tickets £10, see www.WeGotTickets.com website.

'Kum-n-avaloff' comedy night is at Stourbridge Town Hall tonight. Every first Thursday of the month it showcases comedy talent with curry included for £8.75. Call (01384) 812960.

Jade helping baboons

DUDLEY Zoo primate keeper Jade Reddall is more than half way through her month-long mission to help wild baboons in South Africa.

The 25-year-old is on paid leave working with rescued chacma baboons from the Centre for Animal Rehabilitation and Education in Phalaborwa.

ADVERTISEMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

STEAMED UP DOUBLE GLAZING?
Don't replace the Frames... just the Panes!

Broken or Damaged Windows?
Faulty Hinges, Handles or Locks?
Want The Latest Energy Saving Glass?

All Glazing Backed By Our
5 Year Manufacturers Guarantee

cloudy 2 CLEAR WINDOWS
REPLACING YOUR FAILED DOUBLE GLAZING

Priority Freephone
0800 61 21 118
www.cloudy2clear.com

...we make saving money perfectly clear...

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Council's vision for theatre is revealed

EXCITING news for those of you who have been following the long-running story surrounding the Dudley Hippodrome. The council has now revealed its exciting new plans for the empty theatre.

Bright, sweeping, 'multi-functional' and gateway are among the surfeit of adjectives lavishly used to describe the new vision. And what is the new plan in question? Well you will be surprised to learn it involves another block-paving scheme.

What is it with councils and block-paving? Dudley has done pretty well with these fabled slabs in recent years. There has been the scheme in the market place, the 'civic square' in Stone Street, and the 'open-air theatre' in Coronation Gardens.

Then there's the scheme in Wolverhampton, where the council boasted it would increase 'footfall' – local authority speak for visitors – when all it seems to have done so far is caused traffic problems around the bus station and closed one of the city's oldest and nicest shops.

Look, I've got nothing against a bit of block-paving. Usually, it looks quite nice. But as a regeneration tool it is next to useless. Nobody ever comes into town to admire the floor surface.

And back to the Hippodrome. Now, I'm a realist, I know there's no magic money tree, and I don't expect the council to pour in millions of pounds. And if, in the six years since the council bought the theatre for £500,000 it had come up with an exciting scheme for the site, be it a new theatre, a museum or tourist attraction, then I would be all for it.

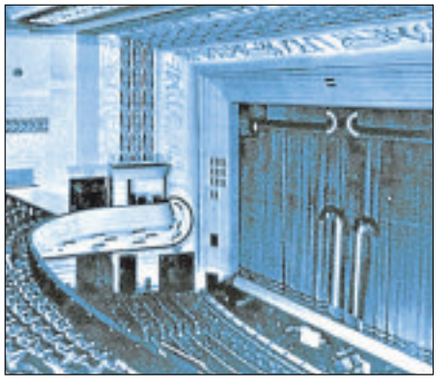
But having spent half a million on buying the theatre, the best ideas it has come up with have been a temporary car park, a conference centre and now an Alan Titchmarsh Ground Force project.

Could you imagine a private business spending this sort of money on a landmark building, not knowing what to do with it, and then knocking it down and paving over it?

The council hasn't revealed the cost of the 'bright, sweeping, multi-functional open space', but I would be surprised if it didn't run into seven figures. The market scheme cost £6.75 million, and of course there are the demolition costs, and the cost of maintaining all the shrubbery in the scheme. Money which would be better spent keeping the museum and art gallery open.

So here's a solution. The council bought the site at auction, why not do what any property developer with an abortive project would do, and stick it back in the auction? It might not get its £500,000 back, but sometimes you have to cut your losses. Let someone else have a go.

Could a private company make a go of the theatre? What else could it use the site for? I've no idea. But I bet if it was the developer's own money, it would not involve topiary and block-paving.



The interior of the Dudley Hippodrome taken 1957

The boarded up Hippodrome building in Castle Hill, Dudley

Bob Hope, right, at the Hippodrome in 1957

Final curtain set to fall on Hippodrome

Dudley's historic theatre is being lined up to become a public open space. **RICHARD GUTTRIDGE** reports

FROM Laurel and Hardy to Bob Hope and Ken Dodd – some of the biggest stars of entertainment that graced the Dudley Hippodrome stage.

This was at a time when the town had a theatre to contend with some of the best in the country.

But, after years of neglect, which has seen the once-famous venue continue to decline, the final curtain is about to fall.

Over the last few years it was hoped the historic building would make a return as a theatre as passionate campaign groups entered into discussions about rescuing the venue.

However, it now appears the long-running battle to provide the town with a theatre it can be proud of once again has been brought to an abrupt end as plans have emerged to pull it down and replace it with an open public space.

Scrapped

There was talk of a Dudley holy trinity of the Hippodrome, zoo and Black Country Living Museum being formed to boost tourism in the town.

The former theatre had been under threat of demolition for years since the council tabled plans to bulldoze the venue to make way for a temporary car park.

Plans were then revealed by Dudley Zoo to build a multi-million pound visitor centre on the site of the Hippodrome before being scrapped last year when it was revealed the facility would instead be built within the zoo grounds.

The battle to save the Hippodrome then gathered pace before being dealt a major blow earlier this year when Wolverhampton-based entertainment company The Rok Group pulled out of a proposed rescue deal.

As recently as last month, bullish leaders of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group declared they could have the venue up and running again by next year. If that sounded optimistic at the time those aspirations have now been all but snuffed out as council bosses have revealed plans to demolish the building – and replace it with public open space.

The public space replacing the Hippodrome would open up views of the town's castle

The scheme has certainly come out of the blue, with interested parties having been given a guided tour of the building just a few weeks ago, leaving heritage and community groups in Dudley baffled.

Council bosses insist their plan will see the removal of a 'dilapidated' building and a 'modern public exhibition and events open space' put in its place. But the plan has already attracted fierce criticism.

West Midlands MEP and Ukip councillor Bill Etheridge said: "The Labour controlling group seem intent in wiping out our heritage as shown by the potential closure of Dudley Museum and Art Gallery and now the people's hippodrome is on their hit list. Shame on them."

Fellow Ukip councillor Roger Scott-Dow said Dudley would be losing its 'jewel in the crown'.

He said: "The council should have worked far closer with the Friends group and other interested parties. A revitalised Hippodrome could act as a further much-needed catalyst for further regeneration."

Black Country Gaz Sawyers, co-founder of the Black Country Festival, said the proposals to bulldoze the Hippodrome had left him 'dismayed'.

"I don't understand why the council would want to destroy something and put nothing in its place, just a piece of huge open land," he said.

"It's come out of the blue and will come as a shock to a lot of people. If I had any power in what was put there, I'd want to see something that represented the musical heritage of Dudley, which used to be a thriving place for concerts and music shows.

"It's devastating to just destroy this historical building, it makes no sense at all."

Just a few months ago, comedy great Ken Dodd joined campaigners in calling for the hippodrome to be saved.

However, Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of the opposition Conservative group in Dudley, said he could understand the council's thinking. He said: "I think it's regrettable by the council that the news has broken in this manner and been dripped out to the public, but as far as I'm aware the controlling group of the Hippodrome have been left with no choice but to demolish it."

Regeneration boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "We've given people every opportunity to make sure we can keep the Hippodrome. Unfortunately it needs £5m to £10m to bring it back into use and that's a long shot. It's not just a gateway to Dudley town – it's a gateway to the borough. It's an important area and it could look amazing for the town and borough.

"Hopefully the people of Dudley will see the reasoning behind why we've had to make this decision."

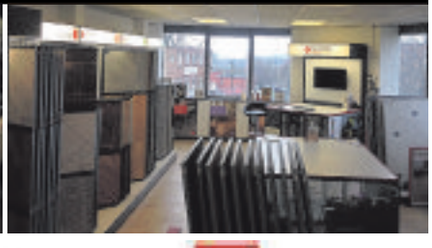
Glory

While council chiefs have come under fire over the plans, they are right about one thing – the building is in a dilapidated state. The dormant, run-down building that currently stands on Castle Hill is a far cry from the glory years when the great and the good of showbiz would regularly top the bill in Dudley.

Built shortly after the end of the Second World War in 1938 on the site of the Dudley Opera House, which had been destroyed by fire the previous year, the theatre became a popular variety theatre until 1964. In the intervening years the likes of Judy Garland and George Formby appeared there along with rising stars such as Bruce Forsyth, while in 1947 legendary comedy double act Laurel and Hardy performed. It was later run as a bingo hall by Gala Bingo, closing in 2009.

High Street, Brierley Hill (on the corner) | CARPET FACTORY OUTLETS | 01384 263149

Brintons
CLEARANCE CENTRE
CALL IN OR GO ONLINE TODAY
www.carpetfactoryoutletskidderminster.com



Karndean Designflooring
WINDMÖLLER FLOORING
MADE IN GERMANY

Brintons FINE CARPET | VICTORIA CARPETS | BROCKWAY KIDDERMINSTER | Karndean Designflooring DEDICATED SHOWROOM | The Home of Flooring

Let's get Midlands engine revving

THE announcement that the West Midlands Combined Authority will have devolved power to control its own affairs, and a metro-mayor is good news indeed.

Quite apart from the extra £1bn from the Government for investment, transport projects and training, it means people in our part of the West Midlands will have a more direct say about how their own money is spent.

I congratulate Bob Sleigh, who chairs the Shadow Board of the West Midlands Combined Authority and all the metropolitan councils and the LEPs for moving so swiftly to create a partnership and secure this deal with the government.

This kind of streamlined devolution is just what we need – more direct control over policy without an extra layer of bureaucracy and cost.

The agreement will mean more money, more autonomy and more opportunity for our region. Let's get the Midland engine really revving.

ANTHEA MCINTYRE
Conservative MEP for West Midlands

Bag charge could help shoplifters

I DON'T know how successful the idea of charging people for bags is at 'saving the planet' but just sat here watching the usual adverts on TV for perfume and the like and it's just struck me.

You go into a large shop, buy whatever it is you fancy, put it into your pocket (as men do) then as you are walking out you are asked if you have paid for all your purchases?

How long will it be before someone is wrongly accused?

Or will this idea of charging for bags become, what could be called, a thieves charter?

I won't go into the details but if I've worked it out I'm sure shoplifters already have!

M GOUGH
Wombourne

Prayer ban pandering to bigots

WE have been exhorted over the past decades not to cause offence to others.

Not causing offence has been used as the reason why all manner of things have been either banned or scaled down, but the decision by Digital Cinema Media (DCM) to ban a short advertisement featuring The Lord's Prayer has caused a large number of people to pause for thought.

The DCM are at liberty to lay down their own rules and not accepting religious material is a matter for them. However, I wonder whether they have really thought through their published reasons for refusing the advertisement?

DCM has stated they turned down the advertisement because they felt it might, or could, offend followers of other faiths or of none. In my understanding of that, DCM is saying they don't want to offend the intolerant — who else would object to the advertisement?

Is backing down to bigots really what we want?

GORDON SMITH
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Cynics are eroding society's foundations

THERE is a romance running through your pages (Nov 26).

It is the romance that voluntarism can replace government provision, eg libraries. Another part of this romance ran through George Osborne's spending statement and it runs through the 'Metro Mayor' idea for the West — an idea rejected when it was put to the vote in Birmingham.

Yet another part of the romance is UKIP's appeal characterised by their latest reference to Enoch Powell. That speech dates to 1966, it's pre-Thatcher, we still had a manufacturing industry in those days. Ukippers are romantics for a long-gone past.

Your columns do allow reality to intrude in the shape of 48,000 food parcels and hospital staff not wanting their loved ones to be admitted to where they work. It is a shocking dissonance.

One of the new Labour leadership's economic advisers has just written an article (Guardian, Nov 25) about the necessary strategic role of the state. Mariana Mazzucato has accused Osborne of 'eroding the foundations'. The Tories, of course, are too cynical to accept such an assessment.

But the consequences of this cynicism are all around us, and certainly not least in Dudley.

JOHN PAYNE
Dudley Green Party
Halesowen

Call to check on headlights

HOW come in the last few years there are so many cars on the road with only one headlight working?

They look like motorbikes from a distance and now the dark nights and mornings are upon us they are a hazard.

We have competitions counting how many we can see on our trips out. The total was 32 on the way back from Wolves one night. Last week 21 and two with no lights at all between Lye and Halesowen.One

Come on motorists, check your lamps, you must know.

H WISE
Dudley

STD CARPETS
Can guarantee fitting before Christmas, because we are one of the largest stockists of carpet in the country, we are not in the hands of the manufacturers
At STD we have top class fitters and the finest selection of carpets anywhere
Prices are up to 50% cheaper than other stores with 100's of rolls of Wilton, Axminster, Saxonys and Twist Pile in stock
So, if you want a carpet for Christmas get along to STD
STD carpets
BRIERLEY HILL
K'FORD S'BRIDGE
Open 6 days a week 9.00 to 5.30
Sunday 10.30 to 4.00,
Closed Wednesdays
Church Street, Brierley Hill, DY5 3PT
01384 76448

ALL CONSERVATORIES ORDERED NOW...
Come with choice of colours
• Choice for floor tiles • Electrical sockets and light fittings
Order now and we GUARANTEE you a warm and cozy Christmas
dudley
Turn Your Home into a Castle
DOORS, WINDOWS & CONSERVATORIES
Telephone now and book your FREE survey 01384 292484
Ask About Our Finance Deals
Fitted £2,595 inc. VAT
5 'A' Rated Windows
PLUS a choice of Deluxe composite Door
10 year guarantee
Yale security
FREE home survey today
Patio Doors from £840 fitted
Full Range of White upvc Doors
UPVC FRONT DOOR From £450 Fitted
UPVC BACK DOOR From £375 Fitted
French Doors from £780 fitted
Latest Colours Composite Doors from £750 fitted
Beautiful Coloured upvc Doors from only £550 fitted
CALL IN TODAY FOR A BROCHURE
Certass Insurance 10 year guarantee
WOLLASTON SHOWROOM
2E High Street, Wollaston, Stourbridge DY8 4NH. Open Mon-Sat 10.00am-5pm Sundays (by appointment)
Tel: 01384 292484 or www.dudleydoors.com
Over 40 Years Experience

Defiant — a group of Cradley Heath women chainmakers seen during the lock out in 1910

Women chainmakers of Cradley Heath on the march

Women's work — a workshop staffed by female chainmakers in Cradley Heath

Heritage project aims to preserve history of strike

THE proud history of the Black Country's female chainmakers is to feature in a new heritage project hoping to preserve the past before it is too late.

Pictures of artefacts and recordings made by the ancestors of chainmakers will be uploaded on a new website being set up by The Friends of the Women Chainmakers.

The group was formed to preserve the industrial heritage of the Black Country and celebrate the role that women played.

To kick start the project, the group is seeking ancestors of female chainmakers and of women who worked in other industries to share their family's story.

Chair Lesley Bates, said: "There are two sides to what we are doing with this project. One will look at the heritage side and involved speaking to the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren of the women chainmakers.

MEMORY LANE

By Rob Cox

"The other side will reflect on what women's work was like in the Black Country and Cradley Heath and whether it has changed at all in the last 100 years. "

The 1910 Women Chainmakers' strike, led by Mary Macarthur and supported by the women of Cradley Heath, was pivotal in labour history and a significant step in the development of a universal minimum wage.

During a visit to Empire Theatre in Cradley Heath, union leader Macarthur saw poverty and was shocked by the infant mortality rate.

After she persuaded chainmaker bosses to set a minimum wage, she was left angry when they found a loophole that meant that the wage increase could be held back by nine months. This enabled them to stockpile chain and then lay off workers before the increase.

In response, Macarthur organised strikes at chainmakers, the first being in Graingers Lane. The strike lasted 10 weeks until employers finally agreed to meet their demands.

Mrs Bates, added: "Mary Macarthur was very good at using the media. She made a film which went out to cinemas, including in the United States.

"This was really important stuff that resulted in the Workers' Institute at Cradley Heath, now at the Black Country Living Museum."

The group intend to apply for heritage lottery funding and will look to provide work packs for schools.

The motivation is to record accounts of the historic events for future generations.

Mrs Bates, added: "If we do not do something about it quickly there will not be people who have even second or third hand memories of the women chainmakers. The strike itself was such an important event but because this was a women's issue it does not tend to have the same prominence."

Contact Mrs Bates on 07816 480584.

Leader speaks — trade unionist and women's rights campaigner Mary Macarthur addresses the strikers

Wooden Venetian Blinds 50% OFF for all orders placed in December!

QUEEN BLINDS

Mix & Match Vertical Blinds Or Roller
3 for £100
72" x 72"

Vertical Blinds
3 for £79
Up to 72" x 72"

Roller Blinds
3 for £119
60" x 60"

We provide Venetian, Roman, Roller, Vertical, Velux, Pleated
Supplied & Fitted within 5 days
OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK
8.30AM TILL 7PM
FREE MEASURING & FITTING
12 Month Guarantee Terms & Conditions Apply

Full Conservatory Blinds Fitted
£189
Vertical Only

Find us on Facebook
FREEPHONE
Call: 01384 686970
Text: 07707 435964 www.queenblinds.co.uk
0800 907 8631

DentureCare

New dentures will allow you to Eat, Smile and Talk with confidence!

* NEW DENTURES
* COPY DENTURES
* NATURAL LOOKING
* DENTURE REPAIR

HOME VISITS AVAILABLE

Providing a professional, personal & discreet service. Patient satisfaction is our highest priority. Over 20 years experience in dentistry.
CALL FOR A FREE CONSULATION...
TELEPHONE LEE TORRINGTON CDT RCS eng rdt.
01384 468 648

MISTY UNITS REPLACED
Buy Direct from the manufacturer. Est. 1999
Pilkington energikare energy efficient glazing
Reduce heat loss by up to 75%
Also upgrade your existing double glazed units to Pilkington Energikare, it will help to reduce the amount of heat lost through your windows by up to 75%, lock, handles, hinges.
WITH A 10 YEAR GUARANTEE AND FITTING SERVICE AVAILABLE
Delph Glazed Units
Unit 32 Delph Rd Ind Est (by the tank), Brierley Hill DY5 2UA
BSEN1279
www.delphglazedunits.co.uk
Telephone: 01384 573 074

FIRST FENCE
Over 15 Years Experience.
Prices Start From £70 A Bay Including Heavy Duty Fence Panel, Concrete Post, Gravel Board & Fitting.
Sheds Now Available!
10 Bays for £570
Gardening Services & Shed Re-felts Also Undertaken.
Free Quotes. All Written Quotes Beaten!!
01384 834197
07927 014217

Isn't it time for a New Garage Door?
With the ESSATI SALE, the decision's made so much easier
Our top of the range electric 'remote controlled' insulated aluminium rolling garage door operated by hand held 'keyring' handset is currently reduced from a RRP of £2250 - to an amazing £799 inc VAT & fitting.
NOW JUST £799!
INCLUDING VAT & FREE FITTING
65% OFF
Price includes:
Includes free internal manual override
CALL 01245 396910
www.essatigaragedoors.co.uk

Car rescue pair receive chief's bravery awards

Rescuers — Samantha Holland and Sergeant Lewis Hurford-John with, centre, Chief Constable Chris Sims

A POLICE officer and a passer-by have received bravery awards for a rescue where a drunk driver was saved as her car teetered on the edge of a deep ditch.

Sergeant Lewis Hurford-John was first on the scene of the crash on Dudley's Bramford Estate when the Ford Focus careered off Park Road. The vehicle came to rest with its rear hanging over an embankment.

Sgt Lewis dragged a male passenger, thrown into a ditch under the perilously positioned car, to safety while Samantha Holland leapt on the bonnet as a counter-balance to stop it plunging into the trench.

Samantha, 25, from Brierley Hill, who works at the Bramford Arms, was joined by pub customers to help weigh down the car before fire crews arrived to tow the vehicle to safety.

Sgt Hurford-John and Samantha were honoured for their bravery at an awards ceremony where they were respectively presented with a Chief Constable's Award and Good Citizen's Award from West Midlands Chief Constable Chris Sims. Sgt Hurford-John said: "The car was literally rocking, ready to topple. We spotted a man in the brook directly underneath the vehicle. I ran down and dragged him out of the way. Samantha did a great job instinctively hopping on the bonnet to keep the front wheels on the ground."

Samantha added: "I sat on the bonnet for about 20 minutes before the fire brigade attached ropes to the car and dragged it away from the cut.

A 47-year-old woman from Bushbury later admitted drink driving in court was banned from driving for 20 months and told to pay £215 in fines and charges.

CASH Hawthorne & Walker CARRY

BUY NOW!

5lb Fresh Rib Eye Steaks.....£6.99lb
5lb Fresh Sirloin Steaks (120 Day matured)...£6.99lb
Fresh English Beef Fillets.....£7.98lb Take 2 £6.98lb
Fresh Aberdeen Black Angus Eye Rounds 5-6lb approx £3.60lb
Fresh Grain Fed Beef Roasts approx 12lb £2.79lb
5 x 1lbs Minced Beef .....£1.99lb (additive free)
5lb Fresh Rump Steaks £5.79lb
10 Rib Eye Steaks £17.99
11lb Trays Fresh Chicken Fillets ..£23 or 2 for £20 each (additive free)
Whole Fresh Boneless Pork Loins..£1.89lb Take 2 £1.69lb
Home Cured Middle Bacon £2.78lb
5lb Packs Home Cured short Back Bacon ..... £7.99 per pack
Home Cured Streaky Bacon £2.28lb
Whole Danish Crown Horseshoe Gammons £1.89lb
10 Pork Loin Steaks £7.99
Whole Fresh Belly Porks.....£1.69lb
Homemade Sausages min. 75% pork Various delicious flavours! .....5lb = £1.99lb
Whole Fresh Boneless Lamb Legs .....£3.99 kilo
5lb Middle Loin Lamb Chops £3.49lb
10 Loin Lamb Chops £7.99

ORDER NOW FOR CHRISTMAS

Boneless Turkey Crowns

Wrapped in Streaky Bacon in a roasting bag with cooking time!

BUY NOW FROM £2.99lb

FRESH ENGLISH BONELESS SIRLOIN JOINTS 28 DAY MATURED .....£5.99lb = £13.29 kilo with Salt, Black Pepper, Garlic & Parsley Rub £6.79 kilo cheaper than most leading supermarkets

FRESH BONELESS EASY CARVE LAMB LEGS .....£3.99lb = £8.80 kilo £6.19 kilo cheaper than most leading supermarkets

WHOLE FRESH BONELESS RUMPS OF BEEF .....£4.50lb = £9.93 kilo

CHRISTMAS HAMPER

Boneless Fresh Turkey Crown 9-10lb
2lb Scotch Rump Steak
10 Pigs in Blankets
3lb Pork Joint
3lb Black Angus Beef Joint
2lb Gammon Joint
2lb Short Back Bacon
2lb Homemade Pork Sausages (75%)
1lb Sausage Meat (70%)
1lb Pork Pie

£99

FREE BOTTLE OF WINE OR CAVA WITH EVERY CHRISTMAS HAMPER

Call 01384 633648 / 353550
172-6 High Street, Quarry Bank

MASSIVE DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE ON DECEMBER INSTALLATIONS

CELEBRATING Our 30th ANNIVERSARY 2015

RYDALE

Windows & Doors, Conservatories, Orangeries, Porches, Fascias & Soffit Boards

No deposits or stage payments, you only pay when the installation has been completed

Visit one of the largest conservatory and window shrowrooms in the UK

Supplied & Fitted... across the Midlands

Repair Service Available

VERY BIG Autumn SALE RIGHT NOW

Guardian Warm Roof

Replace the existing roof on your conservatory and create a comfortable environment and a room you can use all year round

Every window and conservatory is custom made to the most rigorous quality standards you will find in the industry.
No other company in the area has more experience and know how than Rydale, and that's why we have been in business for more than 30 years.

ULTIMATE SECURITY GUARANTEE
Rydale take security very seriously. Guaranteed high security on ALL products
Full details on request

RYDALE 10 YEAR Insurance Backed GUARANTEED

Make the RIGHT decision this Autumn and give Rydale a ring...

FREEPHONE 0800 917 6060
www.rydalewindows.co.uk

Long Lane, Blackheath, Halesowen B62 9LS

Open Weekdays: 9am to 5.30pm
Saturday: 9am to 4pm
Sunday Closed

Charities to benefit from guest's talk

Amblecote History

CHAIRMAN Pat Martin welcomed a good-sized audience of members and new visitors to the meeting at The Ruskin Centre. She recognised the importance of the day, being Armistice Day, and conducted a minute's silence in memory of those lost in The Great War and other conflicts which continue to this day.

She introduced the guest speaker David Dunham, to take the Society back to the Great War.

His presentation started with a photograph of weary troops on a Great War battlefield spattered with and walking through thick mud. That picture spoke a thousand words and set the context for David's talk about the weapons used on the battlefields.

He gave a detailed and illustrated summary of the weapons used by both sides at the outset of the war and how they developed over the years, often referring to one of the many items in his personal collection which was on display to see and to hold.

Many interesting historical photographs were projected throughout his talk showing troops of all sides with firearms that David recognised and described.

At the end there was a question and answer session with many people taking hold of David's collection.

He was formally thanked by Pat and presented with a certificate from the Amblecote History Society as a record. David waived his fee in lieu of a donation to the Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes.

Remembering the fallen across world

Deputy chairman Ann Rogers, speaker Christine Gregory, Bessie Waters and her sister

Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

CHAIRMAN Mary Jones welcomed 36 members to the November meeting at The Lodge, Wellington Road, Dudley.

The speaker Christine Gregory talked about how Remembrance Day is honoured around the world.

Armistice Day marks the end of the First World War when the surrender documents were signed in 1919 by George V, but it is now called Remembrance Day following the end of the Second World War.

Ladies learned that two and a half million men enlisted from the British Empire and that a special Cross of Sacrifice is erected in every war cemetery that has more than 40 graves. Jamaica alone sent 20,000 volunteers and 4,000 soldiers and civilians lost their lives in Singapore. In Belgium every evening of the year the Last Post is played at the Menin Gate, the huge archway built to hold the names of 50,000 who died. Christine also covered northern France, Poland and the Netherlands where 75 per cent of its Jewish community died in Auschwitz.

The Christmas lunch is on December 11 at the Conservative Club, Sedgley, noon for 12.30pm, with guests Dudley South MP Mike Wood and Councillor Patrick Harley.

Two mark 50 years of service

Wollaston 'E' TG

CHAIRMAN Jean Latham began the November meeting by welcoming 51 members and two visitors.

Certificates for 50 years service, accompanied by potted plants, were presented to Marion Clarke and Betty Noke.

The Federation carol service is to be held in St Thomas' Church, Stourbridge on Saturday December 12, at 2pm. The guild's own carol service will follow on December 15, at 7.30pm, in Cobden Street Methodist Church, Wollaston. Wollaston Guild choir will be performing on both occasions.

The speaker was Nigel Wiggin, who related the inside story of Old Hall tableware. The raffle was won by Ann Turner and Lesley Wall. Competition winners were Gill Mackenzie and Elizabeth Grove.

The December 8 meeting incorporates the Christmas party. Doors to St James Church Hall will be open at 7.30pm.

Homes are proposed to revamp 'eyesore'

UP TO 180 jobs will be created under plans to build 60 homes on an 'eyesore' factory site on the edge of a Dudley nature reserve.

The scheme is earmarked for the former Kuehne and Nagel UK buildings in Netherton.

The project would create around 180 construction jobs according to developer Persimmon Homes West Midlands.

Outline planning permission for the site at Saltwells Road has been granted by Dudley Council and it has now been sold to Persimmon Homes.

Persimmon has applied to the authority for reserved matters to build 62 homes.

Ward councillor Jackie Cowell welcomed the move to redevelop the 'eyesore'.

She said: "This is a good thing as it's just been a fairly miserable location for quite some time. Building 60 properties on the site can only be good news because we do need more development in the borough and desperately need more homes. This will bring new people into Dudley borough and jobs will be created."

The four-acre site is next to the Saltwells Nature Reserve, which covers 247 acres, and is an area of outstanding natural beauty. It backs on to the Mushroom Green conservation area.

By David Cosgrove

The derelict 100,000 sq ft storage and distribution unit is being demolished to make way for the new housing.

Tim Brickley, Persimmon Homes director, said: "If everything goes smoothly, and subject to planning permission, we would hope to start building on site in the New Year.

"Demolition works have now started and will be complete by December."

The new development will also help to create around 180 local jobs according to the developer.

Mr Brickley added: "We aim to provide a real diversity of house types to suit all needs."

Rebecca going to be Freezin' with Fizzogs

Rebecca Fuller, right, with the director of Stourbridge-based Drama Workshop Esther Stanford

A YOUNG Dudley actress who has just completed a Channel 4 series will next be seen working with the Fizzogs on their up and coming Freezin tour.

Rebecca Fuller, aged 19, has just completed filming in Manchester for show Raised by Wolves, playing the part of Stacey and earlier this year she also featured in Lenny Henry's BBC drama Danny and the Human Zoo. She will now be starring as Clarrie in the Fizzogs show, which will run tour West Midlands venues until the end of February.

Rebecca has been a member of Stourbridge-based Drama Workshop, at Chawn Hill Church, for four years. The weekly drama school is for youngsters aged seven to 18.

Director of Drama Workshop Esther Stanford said: "When Rebecca first joined, she was very quiet but you could tell she was naturally talented. She can play straight roles but is equally at home in comedy. She has the ability to improvise, is full of ideas and a real grafter."

Black Country panto Freezin will be performed at Netherton Arts Centre from December 10 to 12. See www.thefizzogs.com

Family Run Able & Bromley Carpets / Beds Est since 1978

SOFAS, VINYLS AND LAMINATES

WE DO WHAT OTHER CARPET FIRMS WON'T.
Help move heavy furniture, up lift plus take away old carpets FREE OF CHARGE
Shave doors. Bed assemble and disposal.
Free Fitting on our Premier Carpet Collection

DISABLED? OAP? CAN'T GET OUT?
or anyone who just needs extra help!
Can't come to us, we'll come to YOU
We will bring 100s of carpet samples sofa and bed brochures to your door

Samantha Sofa 3+2 Fabric Sofas only £500
Heavy Domestic Saxony's from £6.99 sq yd was £14.99
Lola Leather Suite 3 + 2 Recliner in Black or Brown £699
Divan Beds Singles from £92 Double from £142
Bleach cleanable carpets from £3.99 sq yd

UP TO 75% OFF 100's of rolls and end of rolls in store at knockdown prices WE WILL BEAT YOUR BIG SUPERSTORE

CARPETS GUARANTEED FITTING BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Free quotes and Planning
Warehouse Unit, D Dormston Trading Est., Burton Road, Gornal DY1 3TD
OPEN: MON-SAT 9.30-5.00
Quarry Bank • Lye • Wollescote • Kinver • Stourbridge • Pedmore • Brierley Hill • Wordsley
OPEN SUNDAYS 10am-3pm
Kent Street • Gun Lane • McDonalds • Gornal Tyres • Jews Lane • Bradley • Old Kiln Road • WE ARE HERE
FREEPHONE 0800 0[illegible]747 COVERS ALL AREAS
Adrian Bromley 01902 880541

BEX HOME CARE

TOO BUSY FOR HOUSEWORK?
Can't keep up with the jobs that need doing?
Or just want to spend more time with the family?
WHY NOT LET US HELP OUT?
No job is too big or too small for us to do. We offer weekly, monthly or even just one off cleans.
We offer a full house cleaning service so with just one call all your household chores can be dealt with.
We offer competitive rates, our staff are all fully experienced and we are fully insured.
So why not give us a call and see how we can help?
CONTACT BECKY ON
0800 6440118 Mobile: 07946 883108

£10 INTRODUCTORY OFFER
Sign up to an Express & Star PLUS+ subscription today

The benefits of joining Express & Star PLUS+
+ Express & Star delivered, six nights a week
+ Digital editon of the Express & Star
+ Mobile apps for iPhone and Android
+ Tablet apps for iPad, Android & Kindle Fire
+ 7 day searchable archive
+ Holiday stop/start
+ Interactive features
+ Online subscription manager
+ Accessible worldwide
£10 PER MONTH*
*First two months only. Usual monthly price £18.50
SUBSCRIBE TODAY: Freephone 0800 146 540
or E-mail: starservice@expressandstar.co.uk
Express & Star PLUS+
PRINT | MOBILE | TABLET | ONLINE

Long-serving police inspector is sacked over pizza brawl lies

A POLICE inspector who ordered back-up to slow down as officers struggled to contain a fight in a pizza shop has been sacked. A misconduct panel found Inspector Jaswant Singh 'deliberately lied' to his chief inspector to try and cover up his error.

The senior officer told colleagues to 'take their time' despite officers needing urgent help as they tried to control yobs at Olivio's in Stourbridge.

The West Midlands Police panel concluded Mr Singh, who has 24 years service, had breached professional standards relating to honesty and integrity and said his actions 'fell short' of that expected of a senior officer.

They also found he had lied about being in the pizza shop

It was alleged in the hearing that he had gone to the wrong pizzeria, Romino's rather than Olivio's, less than 100 metres away.

Risk

Assistant chief constable Carl Foulkes, who chaired the panel, said: "The panel finds his actions placed both his colleagues and members of the public at risk."

The panel had heardhow officers were baffled to hear Mr Singh giving orders for back-up to slow down over the radio as they attempted to prevent the situation from escalating as trouble flared in the High Street shop just before 2.30am on February 23.

When back-up did arrive, the panel heard Mr Singh, duty inspector for Dudley on the night, who was outside the restaurant, 'instructed them it was calm'. They went past him anyway and eight men in all, were thrown out.

In two meetings with his superior Mr Singh lied, the panel ruled.

He was dismissed without notice by the panel.

Bravery award presented to retired officer

A RETIRED police officer who helped foil a raid on a post office has been honoured by the force's top brass.

Alfred Allington, 66, was being served at the counter in Wall Heath Post Office on March 21 last year when it was stormed by four masked men.

Two approached the counter, with one jumping over, while the other pushed Mr Allington. He pushed one of the gang back and struggled with him until he backed off.

Grabbing

Mr Allington then turned his attention to the other man standing on the counter, grabbing hold him and pulling him down.

He was presented with a silver certificate by Head of the National Police Chiefs' Council, Chief Constable Sara Thornton. Joining her was Deputy Chief Constable Dave Thompson.

Minion mania grips Merry Hill malls

Shoppers meet the Minions Kevin, Stuart and Bob at Intu Merry Hill on their Minion Mayhem tour to promote their new movie

MINION mayhem took over Merry Hill shopping centre, as part of a tour across the country to celebrate the release of their film.

In a sold-out show, hundreds of fans got the chance to meet Kevin, Stuart and Bob 'in person' and enjoy a photo opportunity, as well as winning prizes celebrating the release of Minions on Blu-Ray, Blu-Ray 3D and DVD.

Everyone's favourite goggle-wearing bumbling yellow sidekicks caused a festive frenzy at the centre on Sunday.

From noon until 4pm some 500 people took part in meet and greets with the loveable animated characters that first appeared in the Despicable Me movies.

Toy appeal gets backing from local MP

STOURBRIDGE MP Margot James has launched a festive toy appeal in partnership with Tesco and the Dudley Council for Voluntary Service.

There will be two huge Christmas trees outside the Tesco Extra at the Crown Centre in Stourbridge, with bauble cards on them. Customers are invited to select a bauble indicating a child's gender and age from the Tesco Extra at the Crown Centre. They can then purchase a toy at any store and bring it back to Tesco, where staff will wrap the gifts and help deliver them.

Ms James said: "I am delighted to have been asked by Tesco to support their Christmas toy appeal.

"The toy appeal is very much in the spirit of Christmas. It is a very good opportunity for us to remember people less fortunate than ourselves, and bring some joy to children who, for whatever reason, can feel excluded from the celebrations."

Gifts can be for a child aged up to 18, such as books, toys and games, as long as they are new and unwrapped.

Campaign launched to cut speeding in village

POLICE are cracking down on drivers hitting high speeds through a village near Stourbridge following concerns from residents.

A speed enforcement site is being created in Belbroughton by the Safer Roads Partnership with West Mercia Police. Officials say 15 per cent of motorists through the village have been travelling above 38mph and about half of all drivers are exceeding the 30mph limit.

The speed clampdown this week includes a mobile speed camera in Hartle Lane, between Belbroughton and Stourbridge Road. Anna Higgins, of the Safer Roads Partnership said local people were understandably concerned about the high speeds.

Green fee shock for bowls club

MEMBERS of a bowling club in Kingswinford face a staggering rise of up to £12,000 in the fees they pay to Dudley Council, under plans by the authority to get clubs to pay more for green maintenance.

The council, which needs to save £20 million by 2018, currently pays to maintain the greens at each of Dudley's eight bowling clubs. Clubs themselves pay £750 towards those costs.

Dennis Joshua, of Dudley Sports Bowling Club, said: "We are elderly people who come here to socialise. Now we're being told we've got to find £12,000 a year or mow the green ourselves. It is absolutely disgusting. It's an astronomical rise."

Councillor Hilary Bills said: "Unfortunately the council will not have the money to support activities like this. We are trying to give them options."

Public have a say on homes

RESIDENTS will be consulted over an £18 million housing scheme seeing homes built on old garage sites, including at Marley Road in Kingswinford

A contract has been agreed by Dudley Council and Cannock developers Jessup Brothers for homes to be built for council tenants.

On January 20 there will be a meeting over the Marley Road site between 3pm and 7pm at The Dingle Community Centre.

Award for couple who have cared for 70 children

THEY'VE looked after more than 70 children over nearly 30 years — and now Peter and Pat Coyne have been given a long service award for their dedication and care.

The couple, of Chelford Crescent, Kingswinford, received their award at the Barnardo's Midlands celebration evening at the Copthorne Hotel, Dudley. Peter, aged 72, and Pat, 69, are currently the longest-serving foster carers with Barnardo's Midlands Overnight Short Breaks.

It all started when their first son, Stephen, was born with cerebral palsy and the couple became actively involved with care groups. He died in 2003, just before his 40th birthday. They have four other children, Julie, aged 50, Nikki, 47, David, 44, and Ash, 19.

Despite being parents and grandparents, the couple said they enjoyed sharing their home with other people's children too.

Mr Coyne said: "Our late son had cerebral palsy so we were involved with a local club for children with special needs. A community nurse asked if we would be interested in supporting a new short-breaks service, which was then being run by the local authority.

"We thought it would be a nice way for the two of us to work together in our own home, allowing us to give something back to the community.

By David Callaghan

"You definitely need a sense of humour, a lot of patience and a lot of love but all of the children have a special place in our hearts."

The couple currently care for two children, one comes for tea two evenings a week, and the other stays overnight once a week.

Mrs Coyne said: "Parents entrust you with their precious child so you have to earn their respect and their trust, but they are so grateful for the support.

"It gives parents valuable time to take care of their other children who can sometimes be left out due to the demands of looking after a disabled sibling.

"Life-long friendships are established. We still keep in touch with many of the families."

Barnardo's MOSB is based at Centre Court in Vine Lane, Halesowen.

Kingswinford couple Peter and Pat Coyne with an award from Banardo's for their 29 years service as foster carers

Show is one step beyond Madness

A SHOW featuring the music of pop group Madness is being staged at Crestwood School from Tuesday to Thursday.

Kingswinford school in December which boasts a cast and crew of more than 50 students, including a gorilla, clown and a ghost.

The award-winning musical by Tim Firth will be performed at Crestwood School, Bromley Lane, Kingswinford, involving a cast and crew of more than 50 students.

The musical tells the story of a teenager, played by Josh Armstrong, about to make a life-changing decision. Helped by his best mates, played by Ellis Walters and Lewis Johnson, he wonders if 'It Must Be Love' with his girlfriend, played by Meredith Penn.

Tickets (£6, £25 for five) are available from the school or on (01384) 816535.

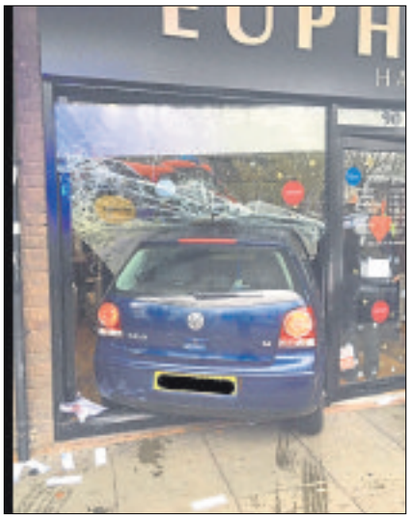
Lost sons are remembered

A NEW book, called The Lost Sons of Wall Heath and Kingswinford, chronicles the lives of the men listed on the war memorial in Wall Heath.

The book, which is the culmination of thousands of hours of research by Joy Marshall and her husband Guy, will go on sale at John Sparry's book shop in Enville Road, Wall Heath, from December 5.

It can also be ordered by calling Joy Marshall on 07739 572121.

Car smashes into hairdressing salon



The VW Polo after it crashed into the shop front at the salon in Wordsley Pictures courtesy of @FireBrierley on Twitter

A CAR smashed through the front of a hair salon in Wordsley sending staff and customers leaping out of its path.

A blue VW Polo came flying through the front of Euphoria hair salon, in Lawnswood Road. The car stopped just short of bursting into the main area of the salon but caused substantial damage to the waiting area, front reception desk and display stands.

Paramedics said it was 'nothing short of a miracle' that no-one was hurt in the incident at around 11.50am on Saturday morning. An 88-year-old woman was at the wheel and was checked over by medics but did not require further treatment though she was badly shaken.

Six customers and six staff were in the salon at the time. Deborah Shaw, aged 48, who runs the salon with her daughters Natalie, 29, and Danielle, 23, said she thinks it will cost up to £10,000 to repair.

"I couldn't believe it, I was looking in the mirror and could just see things flying off the shelves as the car came ploughing through the shop window," she said. "It was terrifying, clients were screaming and jumped up."

Hate crimes on rise in wake of Paris terror

HATE crimes against Muslims in the West Midlands have increased in the wake of the Paris terror attacks, according to figures.

Anti-discrimination charity Tell MAMA, which monitors and records attacks against Muslims, said it had seen a sharp rise in incidents since the killings in the French capital last month.

The charity last week reported that it had received 12 reports of abuse in the region since the attacks and there were still more to be processed. Prior to the events in Paris it had recorded 41 in the region for the whole of 2015.

It is a trend that the charity is seeing across the country, with average weekly reports more than tripling from 35 to 115.

Spike

Tell MAMA director Fiyaz Mughal said: "There have been quite a lot of cases since the Paris attacks.

"We do see a trend that whenever there is a global incident there is a spike in anti-Muslim incidents.

"There have been more than 100 nationally since the Paris attacks and we are still processing others.

By Richard Guttridge

"Clearly there is a measurable and significant spike here and it is worrying. We know the West Midlands is an area where there has been a rise.

"From the data we have seen coming in it is going to have an effect on the number of cases police are dealing with."

The charity hosted an information session on Sunday at the DY1 centre in Dudley to try to find ways to prevent racist attacks.

Amjid Raza, of the Dudley Muslim Association, said: "We do have evidence that there has been a rise in people who are suffering abuse. It is unfortunate because we are part of society and are sad about the incidents in Paris. Terrorism has no religion."

SALE NOW ON
DC DOMESTIC
SALE NOW ON
12 MONTHS WARRANTY
NEW AND GRADED
RECONDITIONED
FREE DELIVERY UP TO 5 MILES
TUMBLE DRYERS From £129.00
VACUUM CLEANERS From £30.00
FRIDGE FREEZERS From £149.00
FRIDGE FREEZERS From £149.00
NEW STOCK ARRIVING DAILY
175, HIGH STREET, BRIERLEY HILL, DY5 3BU
TEL: 07538 005 637 OR 07429 705 750
OR VISIT www.dcdomestic.co.uk

Quality Kitchen Makeovers Ltd

UNBEATABLE QUALITY AND VALUE FROM THE BESPOKE SPECIALISTS

Don't Settle for Less
● Kitchens ● Bedrooms
● Bathrooms ● Extensions
● Loft Conversions
● Home Offices
From a door or worktop replacement to an extension

What our customers say...
"Wonderful kitchen, I have already recommended you and would not hesitate to recommend QKM to anyone."
"Can't believe the transformation from start to finish, totally professional."

HOMEOWNERS...
Looking to Sell?
Enhance the prospects of selling your property - stunning results for a minimum outlay
Just Moved In?
Let us help to transform your property into a dream home
Decided to Stay?
Fall in love again with your home - Revamp your kitchen, bedroom or bathroom and allow us to show your home's true potential
Bring us your dream pictures and we will bring them to life

At QKM
We are dedicated to offering our customers the finest service within the home improvement market
THE GUILD OF MASTER CRAFTSMEN
Membership No A120074
'We have customers who would be more than happy to show you the excellent standard of work'

Appliances: Neff, Bosch, Rangemaster, Belling, Hotpoint, Stoves and many more
Franke Sinks 50 Year Guarantee

The Largest Working LUCE Kitchen in the Midlands at our Netherton Showroom

All types of Flooring supplied and Wet Wall Solutions for Bathrooms
Range of Kitchens, Bedrooms and Bathrooms to suit all budgets

Did you know 80% of our customers are retired?
60% plus of all our appointments are referrals or existing customers requiring further work.
Find out why we are trusted for yourself
BOOK YOUR NO OBLIGATION QUOTE TODAY ON 01384 232413

Head Office & Showroom
149 Cinder Bank, Netherton, Dudley, DY2 9BL
01384 232413
Open Mon - Fri 9am - 5.30pm,
Thursdays 9am - 7pm
Saturdays 10am - 4pm

Stourport Showroom
33 High Street, Stourport-on-Seven DY13 8BE
01299 877718
Open Tue, Wed & Sat 10.00am - 5.30pm
Thursday 10.00am - 7.00pm
Stourport closed Monday & Friday

Customer satisfaction guaranteed.
WE WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

www.qkm.org.uk FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL

Festive gifts from clubs get red card

CLOTHES pegs painted in West Brom's blue and white have topped a list of the worst Christmas presents being sold by Premier League clubs . . .

However when looking at other merchandise being sold at other Midland football clubs it is apparent the colourful pegs are in good company.

Family members scratching their heads over to what to get a Wolves fan can find a dinner bell with the club's crest on the handle, costing £6.

Villa supporters meanwhile can chomp on their club's official wine gums or fudge, both £1, while watching their team from the stands.

And how exactly would Walsall fans make sure they could see their favourite players in action without snapping up a £2 pair of binoculars?

Worst

Our clubs boast some weird and wonderful stocking fillers and gifts for Christmas.

Alan Cleverley, secretary of West Brom's supporters club, said: "I was actually bought a set of those clothes pegs by a mate.

"We always try and outdo each other by buying the worst presents possible.

"Having said that I do think there is some good stuff in the Albion shop and I particularly like buying their golf gloves because they are very good quality.

The infamous Baggies clothes pegs

"I also like buying the golf balls with the badges on – but I keep losing them.

"The standard over the last few years has really improved and for younger people there are all those mobile phone and computer accessories, so I bet they love them.

"I was actually out shopping with my granddaughter the other day and I was pointing out what they could buy me for Christmas. You can never have too many golf gloves because they can wear out quite quickly."

Another present is the Albion metal dog bowl for £7.99 along with diving duck with plug at £4.99.

For those wishing to buy a more serious gift, a WBA home goalkeeper shirt will set you back £54.99.

If Saddlers fans are not taken by the replica binoculars, perhaps a £1 pencil sharpener is more their cup of tea?

Adult training shower jackets cost £50.

Steve Davis, secretary of Walsall Football Supporters Trust, said: "I don't think there's anything too bad that really stands out in our club shop. But I have to say the onesies are just wrong – but then again I think they're all wrong. The worst thing I ever bought was probably the mascot, Swifty's, old costume online. I just thought it was a bit of a one-off but when it came through the post it was massive. I suppose the worse thing I could think of buying a Walsall fan for Christmas would be a Wolves half season ticket."

Wolves are selling force jackets in charcoal black for £70 but the bizarre dinner bell costs a mere £6. And, for those with a spare £1 in your pocket, a 30cm ruler is on offer. Aston Villa's worst offering – an astro turf sign costing £4 – should arguably have charted higher than eighth in the list of worse Christmas presents. The club, as well as selling its own range of confectionary, also stocks Aston Villa dog doorstops for £18.

For the more classy fan, a set of engraved Villa brandy glasses start at £50.

The list of tacky presents compiled by GambleGeek also included a £25 Bournemouth hard hat and Crystal Palace tape measures if they have a spare £4.99.

Sunderland's dog lead emblazoned with the club's crest is on there, priced at £7.99, while a flashing yo-yo for Stoke City supporters also features.

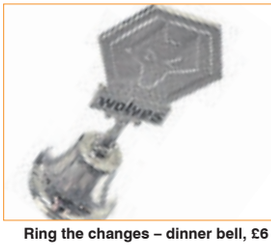
Cockerel tinsel is available for Spurs fans costing £5 and Man City have thankfully produced a £10 garden thermometer.

Rounding of the top 20 worst buys are Swansea ladies' perfume at £15, Everton aftershave at £15 and a £40 Norwich City striped fleece onesie.

Winter warmer – Wolves jacket, £70

All grown-up – an adult shirt, £54.99

All-weather training – jacket, £50



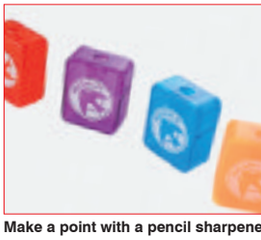
Ring the changes – dinner bell, £6

Dog's dinner – metal food bowl, £7.99

Put football in focus – binoculars, £2

Getting it 'write' with a pencil case, £5

Come clean with a diving duck plug, £4.99



Make a point with a pencil sharpener, £1

STOUR VALLEY CAT RESCUE

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

AT HAGLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE WORCESTER ROAD, HAGLEY

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER

AT 10.30AM - ADMISSION 50P

to include coffee, tea and warm Mince pies.
Brick a brac, jewellery, books and much more

CALL ANITA : 01384 375832

There is one small job that you have been meaning to do for years -

Make Your Will

Only £75.00 plus VAT
Per person for couples, Mirror Wills.

Single Wills £80.00 plus VAT
A home visit at a convenient time

For information and appointment call

0845 678 7010
Mobile: 07771 992717

Wills, Trusts, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Will Storage, Estate Planning and Guardianship Trusts

Members of the Society of Will Writers

Goodwills Legal Services Ltd

www.goodwillsmidlands.co.uk

HOMECLAD

- FASCIAS
- GUTTERING
- SOFFITS
- CLADDING
- TILE EDGING

BEST VALUE IN THE MIDLANDS

PREMIUM PRODUCTS *EXPERTLY FITTED BY A LOCAL FAMILY COMPANY*

SPECIAL OFFER
FREE guttering and downpipes

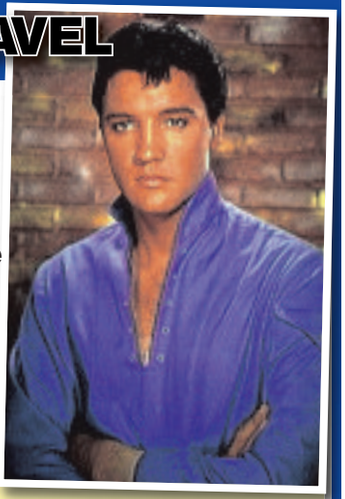
0800 73 13 946
CALL FOR A NO OBLIGATION QUOTE

8 ABBOTSFORD DRIVE DUDLEY DY1 2HD

star extra TRAVEL

Elvis Presley's Memphis,

New Orleans and Nashville



Journey through America's musical heartland, from the birthplace of jazz and the cradle of rock 'n' roll, to the undisputed capital of country music. This holiday is crammed full of highlights with the sights and sounds of the south.

This holiday starts in Georgia and sweeps through the world of legends; WC Handy, Robert Johnson, 'Fats' Domino, Hank Williams, Patsy Cline and Dolly Parton.

Soak up the atmosphere of one of the most exuberant places on the face of the planet, New Orleans, the fabled 'Big Easy'. Take the opportunity to truly experience New Orleans on an optional city tour, including the famous French Quarter of time-warped, iron-balconied buildings centred on Jackson Square and the neighbouring colourful Tremé district.

For a glimpse of the city's surrounding countryside and a taste of Creole life, join the optional Louisiana swampland excursion.

Visit the 'Cotton State' of Mississipi, and journey to Tupelo, home of the house into which Elvis was born *(entrance fees payable locally).*

Continue on to Elvis' beloved hometown of Memphis, which will forever be linked with 'The King'. An optional excursion here takes in the Elvis Presley Boulevard to visit Graceland, the King's home, last recording studio and final resting place.

Enjoy a change of musical genres and journey east from the world of rhythm and blues to Nashville, capital of country music for a two night stay.

Here an optional excursion will introduce you to the legendary Studio B - home to the country music hall of fame and the famous Ryman Auditorium. And visit Chattanooga of Choo-Choo fame, a quintessential southern trading town, surrounded by a steep plateau.

FROM £999*

Nine days various departure dates

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return flights
- Coach travel throughout overseas
- Seven nights room-only accommodation
- Spend two nights in New Orleans
- Visit Tupelo, Memphis, Nashville and Chattanooga
- Optional excursions available
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

* Variable according to departure dates -please go to website for latest prices and availability

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

For a brochure please call the Promotions Team on (01902) 319999 (Mon to Fri, 9am-5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Get rocking around on a Christmas spree

THE COUNTDOWN to Christmas features festive treats for music fans in Birmingham and the Black Country.

First up, tonight (Thu) The Courteeners continue their rise with a gig in Wolverhampton that's been upgraded from the Wulfrun to the Civic Hall due to public demand for tickets.

The band, who recently put out an expanded edition of their 2014 top three album Concrete Love (subtitled Extra Love), will be playing the Civic as part of a sold out UK tour.

The group from Middleton, between Rochdale and Manchester, are crowning their most successful year to date with a new Christmas song, the soaring seasonal Winter Wonderland by frontman Liam Fray. Profits from sales of the track will be donated to help the homeless via charity Shelter.

Fans of hard-hitting dance music with a punk attitude will be flocking to the Barlclaycard Arena in Birmingham city centre tonight for the return of The Prodigy, who achieved their sixth consecutive chart-topping album with The Day Is My Enemy this year. Don't be late, because support comes from the mighty Public Enemy.

Birmingham's Duran Duran are back with a new album, Paper Gods, but expect Rio and other old favourites when Simon Le Bon and co play the Genting Arena at the NEC tomorrow night (Fri). Veteran rock fans will be out in force for Status Quo at the Barclaycard Arena on Saturday with their Accept No Substitute UK winter tour. Support comes from R&B guitar great and remarkable survivor Wilko Johnson.

Relish a rock band at the peak of their powers when Stereophonics let rip with C'est La Vie, I Wanna Get Lost With You and other tracks from their recent Keeping The Village Alive and 2013's hugely successful Graffiti On The Train albums at the Genting Arena on December 11. The Welsh outfit fronted by Kelly Jones have a reputation as one of the best live bands on the music scene with their no-nonsense raw rock approach.

The Courteeners comes to Wolverhampton Civic as part of a sold out UK tour

Welsh rockers Sterephonics have a December 11 gig at the Genting Arena

Monsters of rock Def Leppard and Whitesnake join forces at the Genting on December 12 and then the smooth soul sounds of Simply Red will be heard at the Genting on December 13 and 15, with support from Natalie Imbruglia.

Then it's time for a megastar when Madonna hits town on December 16 to play the Barclaycard Arena as part of her Rebel Heart Tour.

One of the best party atmospheres is likely to be at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on December 19 when Stourbridge indie band Ned's Atomic Dustbin have organised the inaugural Kill Your Television Festival, and will treat fans to the band's first new song for 21 years, in anticipation of the gig.

The Neds have performed numerous sell-out shows at the venue in recent years, which have been attended by fans from all over the world.

Tickets for the gig, which will also feature The Wedding Present, The Primitives and Eat, plus a return for legendary indie club night Blast Off, are still on sale.

Pan's 'Lost Boys' need sensible girls

REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

Wendy & Peter Pan, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon

GIRL power comes to Neverland in the Royal Shakespeare Company's gently feminist revamp of JM Barrie's magical story about the boy who never grows up.

But don't let the F word put you off — this production is very funny, full of magic, music and dance, it just makes it clear that 'lost boys' need sensible girls.

As the title suggests, in playwright Ella Hickson's reboot it is Wendy Darling who is the main character, trying to cope with an impetuous childish Pan who literally flies away from serious issues, like commitment. In the end she saves the day in alliance with Neverland's other girls, Tinkerbell and Tiger Lily.

First staged by the RSC two years ago, this spectacular production has been enhanced and returns sharper than before. But a running time of just under three hours, including interval, may challenge younger children.

It is very cleverly written with jokes pitched at both adult and younger audiences, including Shakespearean references along with various recent catchphrases and a couple of Barrie's most memorable lines.

This production benefits from the involvement of RSC associate actors such as the expressive Mariah Gale as a feisty Wendy and Darrel O'Silva as a melancholy, cynical and eloquent Captain Hook.

Comic support comes from the Lost Boys, including Lawrence Walker playing Tootles with a Black Country accent. Paul Kemp as Smee, Hook's devoted and clearly head-over-heels-in-love first mate, dreams of sharing a cosy cottage with his cap'n. But the biggest guffaws are prompted by Adam Gillen's shrieking cabin boy, a Neverland reworking of his awkward young hairdresser character in hit TV show Benidorm.

Rhys Rusbatch as Peter Pan with Mariah Gale as Wendy *Photo by Manuel Harlan*

Shadows

Welsh actor Rhys Rusbatch seems relegated to a supporting role as Peter, but whether lofted about by his pack of shadows or leading the characters on wires through the air — the set does resemble a human mobile — he has charisma as a punky-looking Pan. Meanwhile, Charlotte Mills as Tinkerbell almost steals the show as a hefty Cockney fairy with a sharp tongue.

Don't underestimate this play's emotional impact. It also has interesting things to say about bereavement. Keep a hanky handy for the scene when Wendy and her brothers are finally reunited with their own lost boy, a sibling who died.

The only caution I would offer parents of younger children is that Hook's murder of an insolent pirate and Arthur Kyeyune's creepy contorted human crocodile may be a little too scary for some under-10s.

This production is much more substantial than the usual well-meaning but instantly forgettable festive fare in theatreland at this time of year — it makes you think as well as laugh. Wendy & Peter Pan continues in repertoire at Stratford until the end of January.

I'm desperate for a NEW BATHROOM

I've tried lots of other reputable companies but their prices are too high! CAN YOU HELP?

YES!! WE CAN HELP YOU

EXAMPLE FULL JOB FOR £3850.00
90x90 Quadrant Cubicle with low level tray
15 SQM Wall Tiles
Tiled Floor
Replacement Shower
New Basin & WC
EXTRA DISCOUNT FOR OUR RETIRED & DISABLED CUSTOMERS

DISABLED SPECIAL
Are you having problems getting in & out of your Bath
We will remove the Bath & Fit an easy access low level round, square or oblong cubicle, & Tiled inside.
Supply a new replacement shower
A Folding Seat & Grab Rail
ALL FOR ONLY £2150.00

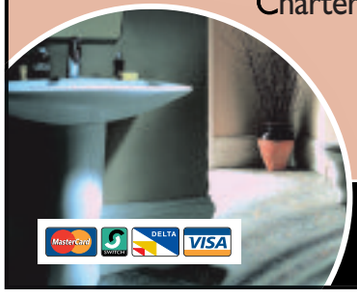
VAT FREE IN QUALIFYING CASES
DAYTIMES & WEEKEND VISITS A PLEASURE

"Our company is owned and run by local tradesmen meaning the work is carried out properly and on time. We strive to keep our prices as low as possible in order to keep within the budgets of retired, disabled and working families which make up 95% of our customers."

We will supply and fit a luxury chrome heated ladder rail worth £200 FREE!! with every bathroom fitted in December & January

YOUR CHOICE BATHROOMS

Unit 4, Charterfield Shopping Centre, Charterfield Drive, Kingswinford DY6 7SH
01384 287222
Showroom also at: 39, Lichfield Road, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton WV11 1TW
01902 861908



SHOWROOMS OPEN
9am-5pm 6 Days a Week

star extra TRAVEL

For brochures please call the Promotions Team on (01902) 319999 (Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm) or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

STAR EXTRA TRAVEL, the travel department of the Express & Star, offers a wide range of short breaks and holidays. For your security, our tour operators are members of ABTA – the Travel Association and hold an ATOL (Air Travel Organisers Licence) for holidays by air. Prices are per person (unless otherwise stated). Please note Star Extra Travel is unable to take bookings over the telephone. Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms and conditions. Dates subject to availability. Coach pick up points offered: Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton (with the exception of holidays by air, Eurostar and certain cruises).

Lake Garda

Eight days various departure dates

PRICE FROM £349

- Return flights
- Seven nights bed and breakfast accommodation in a choice of hotels and resorts
- Half-board offered at some hotels
- Optional excursions offered
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

Moselle Valley by Eurostar

Six days various departure dates 2016

PRICE FROM £519

- Return rail connections to London
- Return standard class seat on Eurostar
- Five nights half-board accommodation
- Guided tour of Aachen
- Visits to Trier, Koblenz, Bernkastel and Cochem
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Madeira Winter Sun

Eight days various departure dates

PRICE FROM £659

- Return flights
- Seven nights full-board accommodation
- Included drinks during meals (limited to aperitifs, local wine and beer, soft drinks and local spirits)
- Tours of Funchal and Western Madeira
- Visit to Quintas do Bom Sucesso botanical gardens
- Services of a tour manager/English speaking representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782, ATOL 6081)

Emmerdale – The Tour

Two days departing
April 3, May 29, July 31, September 25

PRICE FROM £145

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to the Emmerdale outdoor filming set including a guided walking tour
- Visit to Esholt - 'Emmerdale village' including a stop at the Woolpack
- Entrance to Harewood gardens and grounds
- Visit to Saltaire Village and Salts Mill
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V787X)

In search of the Northern Lights

Evening excursion
departing February 2 and 3, 2016

PRICE FROM £219.95

- Pre-flight illustrated presentation by an astronomer
- Flight in search of the Northern Lights of approximately three hours
- Light refreshments on board
- Services of the astronomers on board
- Services of a tour manager

Please note the Northern Lights are a natural phenomenon which cannot be guaranteed to appear during the flight, although they have been visible on many previous outings

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782, ATOL 6081)

Crime Museum Uncovered

Two days departing March 5

PRICE FROM £119

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to the Crime Museum Uncovered exhibition at the Museum of London
- Entrance to the Household Cavalry Museum
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Enchanting Scottish Homes and Castles

Five days departing April 15

PRICE FROM £349

- Return coach travel
- Four nights half-board accommodation
- Guided tour of Bowhill House
- Visit to Floors Castle
- Guided tour of Drumlanrig Castle
- Visit to the New Lanark World Heritage Site
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

London Theatre by coach

Two days selected weekend departure dates

PRICE FROM £149.95

London is the natural home of theatre and the musical is king in the capital's world-famous West End. British musicals that prove a runaway success here often go on to triumph on Broadway and around the globe.

The winning combination of engaging writing, captivating stage design and commanding performance has enabled London theatres to achieve box office smashes time and time again. And it's the songs that make people return to the capital a number of times and some of the most well-known tunes have become part of the national canvas.

There are two options travelling by coach from which to choose, Saturday Night Theatre or a Theatre Weekend with Dinner.

The Saturday Night Theatre break, from £149.95, includes a ticket for the evening show, whereas the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option starts from £159.95 and includes an evening meal following the matinee performance.

Both trips include return coach travel, a choice of theatre ticket from an extensive list of shows, overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in an outer-London four-star hotel, along with some free time in the capital for shopping or sightseeing.

Pick-ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

**The from price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure/web page for details.*

Single room supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Springtime at Eden

Pick of the week

Four days departing March 18

PRICE FROM £229

Take a magical trek through the world's largest indoor rainforest, before enjoying the scent and colour of the Californian grasslands and South Africa.

The Eden Project is a breathtaking recreation of some of the most precious regions on Earth and has become one of Cornwall's top attractions. Here, see the hexagonal greenhouses filled with tropical plants, a huge waterfall, a tree canopy walk way and so much more.

See how the incredible array of tropical, Mediterranean and native plants, which flourish in the climatic zones, have matured since the project was started. The plants in the Rainforest biome include pineapples, bananas, giant palms, and the enormous balsa tree, whilst the stunning blooms of the tree anemone and the delightful purple of the Quamash are in the Californian zone.

Sitting in excess of 200 acres The Lost Gardens of Heligan have been nurtured back to their former glory in the largest restoration project in Europe. Witness the Victorian productive gardens brimming with over 200 varieties of fruit, vegetable, salad and herbs. Plus there's the Italian garden, crystal grotto, a 22 acre jungle, exotic plants, and a banana plantation.

A visit to Torquay is also on the itinerary. Built on seven hills, all of the towns roads lead down to the bustling harbour and marina. Here the promenade is a lovely place for a leisurely stroll at any time of the day.

INFO

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to the Eden Project and the Lost Gardens of Heligan
- Free time in Torquay
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Firefighters in raccoons rescue

A PAIR of pet raccoons had a lucky escape after a fire broke out in a garden shed next to their cage, where they were found to be 'clinging on for dear life'.

Nuna and Buddha desperately tried to escape their cage after flames took hold of Iris Nott's shed in the back garden of her Oldbury home.

The creatures belong to her daughter Hannah Nott, 32, who is in the process of setting up her own animal charity.

Crew commander Chris Green said: "They were clinging on for dear life. The raccoons were right on the far side away from the fire and we used a big fan to blow the smoke away from them.

Hannah Nott said: "The raccoons are my life and I'm just so overjoyed that they're OK. We didn't expect them to come out alive.

Vets

"I was beside myself seeing them clinging onto the cage but luckily fire crews helped me get them out and straight to the vets."

The raccoons were taken to Manor Vets on Kent Road, Halesowen, and were given a clean bill of health.

The cause of the fire, which happened at around 6pm on Wednesday, November 25, is believed to have been caused by a tumble dryer in the shed.

Mrs Nott, aged 68, who lives with her daughter at the property, said: "It was a very scary time and touch and go for Nuna and Buddha. They were hanging on tightly to the top of the cage, frightened.

The fire service were unbelievably quick to the house. If it wasn't for that I don't think the raccoons would have made it."

Safe in owner's arms, Nuna the raccoon with Hannah Nott following the shed fire ordeal in an Oldbury garden

Youngsters are left 'unprepared' for work, says boss

SCHOOLS and businesses across the West Midlands are 'worlds apart' when it comes to getting young people ready for work, a leading businessman has warned.

The comments from Martin Dudley, head of the Thomas Dudley engineering group, come as research shows two-thirds of businesses believe secondary schools are not preparing youngsters for work. The survey of more than 3,500 business and education leaders by the British Chambers of Commerce urged schools to hold lessons around recruitment and interview techniques, and to put direct contact with businesses at the heart of careers guidance.

Mr Dudley, also chairman of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce skills group, said: "Our latest research shows that businesses and schools are still worlds apart when it comes to getting young people ready for the world of work.

"Businesspeople across the Black Country believe that secondary schools need to do more to help young people transition into employment. This needs to be more than just arranging careers fairs. High youth unemployment and skills gaps are a cause for national embarrassment. Unless ministers allow schools to increase their focus on preparing students for the working world, we could fail an entire generation of young people."

Just one in five businesses think secondary schools are either very effective or fairly effective at preparing young people for work with 72 per cent of businesses saying secondary schools are not very effective or not effective at all at preparing young people for work.

Members of gang jailed for money laundering

SIXTEEN members of a £35 million drugs money laundering racket have been jailed for a combined 73 years.

By Rob Golledge

Crime syndicates across the country laundered their narcotics cash through the network headed by Harpal Singh Gill of Smethwick.

Gill, aged 67, of Wall Close, set up a number of bogus clothing and textile companies. False invoices helped the network launder more than £35m between May 2007 and May 2013, the National Crime Agency revealed.

His son, Manjit Gill, 40, from George Road, Edgbaston, a singer also known as Foji Gill, took on the role of director for a number of the companies, receiving significant amounts of money.

Gill and his son were sentenced for money laundering offences in March this year after being found guilty at Birmingham Crown Court, receiving 11 years and five years in prison respectively. The full scale of the enterprise was revealed last week after the last four members of the network were sentenced.

Shafak Mohammed, 45, of Russells Hall Road, Dudley, who headed a bogus company and was found guilty of money laundering, was sentenced to 21 months in prison.

Sukhvinder Singh Dosanjh, 41, of Birmingham Road, Walsall, would meet couriers bringing money from other criminal gangs. He was sentenced to five and a half years in prison after being found guilty of money laundering.

Paul Risby, of the National Crime Agency, said: "Harpal Singh Gill used his position as head of his family and local businessman to influence family members and associates to be part of his criminal enterprise. He knowingly took advantage of the respect afforded to him."

Gill employed his friend and accountant, Gurpreet Singh Roewal, aged 50, of Lyndon Road, Solihull, who advised him and provided an air of legitimacy to the bogus companies. Roewal received eight years in jail after being found guilty of money laundering.

Others jailed were mother-of-two Smita Gareja, aged 48, from Applesham Close, Birmingham. She was the only female to be found guilty of money laundering and received 27 months in jail. Found guilty of money laundering were Gurdev Singh Gill, 60, and Tarandeep Singh Gill, 28, of Lime Avenue, Leicester, sentenced to five-and-a-half years each; Baldip Singh Bains, 36, of Crookham Close, Birmingham, jailed for four years; Mohammed Pervez, 40, of Harvard Road, Solihull, sentenced to seven years in prison; Prakash Chauhan, 55, of Addison Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, jailed for five and a half years; Ranjeev Singh Rai, 33, of Dovehouse Lane, Solihull , sentenced to three years and seven months in prison.

Also sentenced were James Coulson, 28, from Liverpool, jailed for 27 months and Andrew Wilson, 60, from Bedworth, Warwickshire was given a nine month suspended jail sentence. They both admitted possessing criminal property. Santokh Singh Sangha, 62, from Leicester was imprisoned for three years and Sarup Singh Parmar, 65, from Sparkhill was jailed for 29 months. They were both found guilty of money laundering.

CUT OUT THE MIDDLE MAN
SAVE UP TO 70% OFF
HIGH STREET PRICES

Save an extra £10

Make the switch
Join 1,000s of satisfied customers that have...
AND SAVE ££££'s

The Spectacle Store

Bring your prescription or book an eye test. Call and save!

3 Mill Street, Brierley Hill, West Midlands DY5 2RG - 01384 484446
264 Castle Street, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 1LQ - 01384 252903
37 Capehill, Windmill Lane, Smethwick, West Midlands B66 4RX - 0121 558 1621

NHS Vouchers Welcome
Gant Ray-Ban Xeyes Calvin Klein DKNY Bench. Bench. Guess

CHRISTMAS CHRONICLE COMPETITION
WIN £25

To spend with an advertiser who has appeared on these two pages...

Simply answer the questions below and fill in the coupon on the opposite side to win

1) Who can save you up to 70% off High Street prices?

2) Where would you get special offers on dog food this Christmas?

3) Who sells hair extensions and wigs?

4) Who sells 4.8 metre length decking boards for only £8 each?

5) Who has been selling beds in Brierley Hill for over 35 years?

Maison De La Beautee
WHERE STYLE IS CREATED

We deal in best quality hair extensions, wigs, ponytails, hair accessories, afro caribbean, beauty products, contact lenses.
Beauty Room Now Open
Nails, Eylash Extensions and Waxing

Professional Hair & Beauty Supplies

07746 397 441
126 High Street, Stourbridge, DY8 1D

Making your dreamZzz come true...

MARTYN 4 NEW IDEAS

Why choose New Ideas?

We are a family run business with over 40 years experience in fitted kitchens and bedrooms
We pride ourselves on quality and providing excellent customer service.
We are open 7 days a week -
Monday-Saturday 8am-5pm & Sunday 10am-2pm

Unit 6, Two Woods Trading Estate,
Talbots Lane, Brierley Hill DY5 2YX
www.martyn4newideas.co.uk
01384 482662

Now taking orders for Christmas

Crown Butchers
33 Market Street, Stourbridge
01384411311

Christmas Hamper 1

4lb Joint of Boneless Turkey Breast (1.8kg)
2.5lb Boneless Leg Pork (1.2kg)
2.5lb Best Roasting Beef (1.2kg)
2.5lb Gammon Joint (1.2kg)
1lb Black Pudding (0.45kg)
2lb Shortback Bacon (0.9kg)
2lb Pork Pie (approx)
2lb Tasty Thin Pork Sausage (0.9kg)
2 packs Sausage & Bacon Rolls
1lb Sausage Meat (0.45kg)
1lb Tasty Mature Cheese (0.45kg)
1 Dozen Free Range

all this for £69

Secure yours NOW with a £10 deposit and get a FREE £3.99 chicken

NHS DENTISTRY CARE
MODERN NHS DENTISTRY WITH CARE
Look great & feel great in 2015

Dr Elia
GDC No. 79682

WE ALSO OFFER:
- BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES APPLIED
- ONE TO ONE QUALITY CARE
- DIGITAL XRAY
- SAME DAY URGENT BOOKINGS
- ORTHODONTIC CARE
- CHOICE OF FOUR EXPERT DENTISTS

NHS
RICHMOND HOUSE DENTAL PRACTICE
Book your appointment today
01384 390111
All work guaranteed
135 High Street, Amblecote
Stourbridge DY8 4YY
www.eliassmilecentre.co.uk

brierleyprinters
Orders now being taken for...
Personalised Christmas Cards and Calendars

Call NOW for more information

digital and lithographic print & design
Parkfield Road | Stourbridge | West Midlands | DY8 1HD
T 01384 482109 E brierleyprinters@btconnect.com
www.brierleyprinters.co.uk

ABBYDIRECT
TIMBER SUPPLIES
Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm Sat 8.30am - 1pm
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC & TRADE

4.8 metre length Decking Boards
Only £8 each
(Saving £3 on each board)

Skirtings • Architraves Planed Timbers
Sawn Timbers • Sheet Materials
Fencing Panels • Garden Gates
Decking Etc

Tel: 01384 456201
Mob: 07967 588161

CHRISTMAS CHRONICLE COMPETITION

Closing date
11th December 2015

Fill in the coupon below answering the questions on the opposite page, and send in your answers to the address on the coupon.

Send your entries to: Susan Jones (11/12/15) Stourbridge Chronicle Competition, 3 Market Street, Stourbridge DY8 1AB

Answers: 1 ..... *2* .....

3 ..... *4* .....

5.....

Mr/Mrs/Miss ..... First Name.....Surname.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Postcode..... Tel No .....

Email.....

I have read the rules and agree to abide by them.

Signature.....

I would like to spend my prize money with: .....

Rules: Entrants must be 18 or over. Closing date for entries is 11th December 2015. The winner will be notified by post. The first correct entry opened after the closing date will receive the prize. There is no cash alternative to the prize. The prize will be issued in cheque form made payable to the advertiser as chosen by the winner. Once issued the cheque cannot be altered and must be cashed within two months of receipt. Employees or their immediate relatives of the MNA group of companies may NOT enter. The Editor's decision is final. The winner must be prepared to take part in any publicity.

Ceramic festive ornaments
* Flowers for all occasions
* Christmas bouquets from £20.00
* Wreaths
* Beautiful christmas gifts
* Delivery available
www.flower.bkt.co.uk
THE FLOWER BASKET
Market Street, Stourbridge
DY8 1AB Telephone: 01384 371930

PRESTWOOD PETZONE
Special offers this Christmas
Acana Adult Dog food £38.99 13kg
Burns complete dog food £39.99 15kg
01384 877 150
prestwoodpetzone.com

Vape Vamps
Step into the mist
• Batteries
• Atomisers
• Juices
Longest established Vape Company in Stourbridge
Friendly helpful advice, get vaping
Ideal Christmas Gifts
FREE GIFT WRAP SERVICE AVAILABLE
Find us at:
Smithfield Market, Stourbridge DY8 1AD
www.vapevamps.com
Find us on facebook
Tues - Sat 9.30am-4.00pm

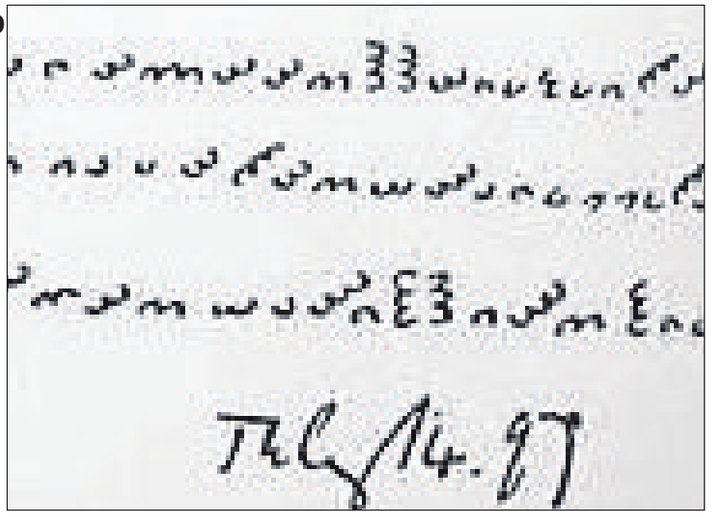
STOURBRIDGE CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA
PRESENTS
A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
Saturday 12th December 2015
6.30pm
Glasshouse Arts Centre,
Wollaston Road
DY8 4HF
An evening of festive favourites.
Conductor: Martin Sleaford
Tickets : £9
Children 16/ Under : £4.50
Available on the door or call 01384 373111
www.stourcos.org.uk
Charity no. 1124608

HUNDREDS OF ELECTRICALS FOR ALL THE FAMILY
GEOFF HILL
Tel: 01384 395852 or 01384 397271
www.geoffhillltd.co.uk • Open 7 days
7 High Street, Amblecote, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 4DE

Did You Sleep Alright Last Night?
If not, buying a New Bed from
Dreamland
Will be the best thing you've done for a good night's sleep.
Specialist bed stockists.
For over 35 years
Dreamland Superstore
23 Mill Street, Brierley Hill
01384 74166
Open: Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm
Sat 9am-5.30pm
Sun 11am-4.30pm
Large free car park at rear of store, Little Cottage Street DY5 1RG
Supporters of Mary Stevens Hospice

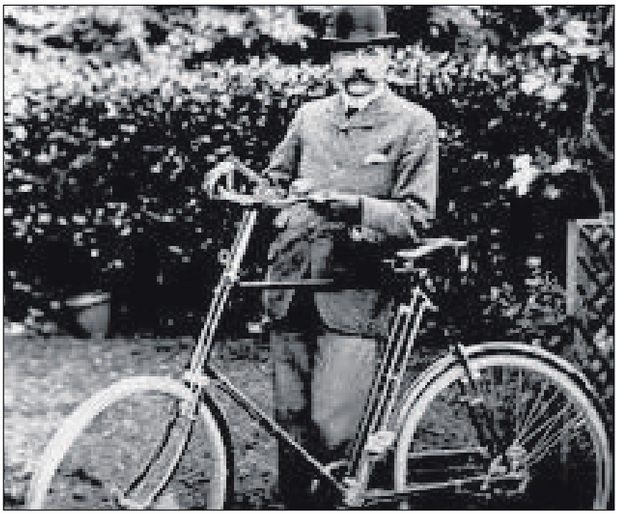
LANGS OF WOLLASTON
6 Years Trading
Supreme Pork Pie Champion 2014
Locally Sourced Meat
Fresh English Turkeys
Fresh English Turkey Crowns
28 Day Matured British Beef
A range of multi award winning pies, sausage, bacon.
Supreme Pork Pie Champion
127 Bridgnorth Road, Stourbridge DY8 3NX
01384 395460

Jessica David
Prom Gowns
Choose from a wide selection of beautiful stylish gowns.
Dynasty
Jovanni
Hermione
Karishma
Check out our website www.jessicadavid.co.uk for our special prom gown weekends.
Special Late Night
3rd & 4th Dec 2015
Special Event Weekend
5th & 6th Dec 2015
5 Heath Lane, Oldswinford, Stourbridge, DY8 1RF.
Tel: 01384 440511.



The Dorabella cipher, written by Elgar to Dora, but which remains unsolved

Composer Edward Elgar



Elgar on his Sunbeam bike on which he cycled many miles

Composer's secret Dorabella code remains an Enigma to this day

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

WHAT is the circle of connection between Edward Elgar, Sunbeam, the Wolves, a local girl named Dora Penny and the World War Two German cipher machine?

Dora Penny was born in 1874 at Swindon, near Trysull, the daughter of the Rev Alfred Penny. Her mother died just six days later, and she was raised by her grandmother.

Dora's father became a missionary in Melanesia for 12 years, and on his return to become rector of St Peter's in Wolverhampton, married Mary Baker who was a friend of the composer Elgar's wife, Caroline Alice. The Elgars came to visit the Rectory, which was on Waterloo Road right opposite Wolves Molineux ground, convenient for Elgar, as he was a fervent Wolves fan, and could stay with them when he came to a match.

He and Dora became great friends, despite her being 17 years his junior, and he sometimes took her to matches. They were both enthusiastic cyclists, on their Wolverhampton-built Sunbeams. Dora on at least one occasion cycled by herself the 40 miles to Malvern to visit him, passing, on the way, the Sunbeam factory on the Penn Road, and near her birthplace at Swindon.

When Elgar published his Enigma Variations, the piece of music which made his name as a composer, he revealed that the 14 variations within it were each inspired by and based on, one of his circle of close friends, the 10th being named Dorabella, his nickname for Dora.

Elgar was a great enthusiast for codes and ciphers, and never revealed what the 'Enigma' was within the work, and musicologists and code breakers have argued what it might be, with the latest theory being Pi. The first four notes are the scale degrees 3,1,4,2, in G Minor, or Pi, expressed as a decimal, and Pi represents the circumference of a circle. His circle of friends?

Elgar also compiled a personal code for Dora, the so-called Dorabella Cipher. To this day no-one has ever been able to decipher it. It consists of 87 characters spread over three lines, and appears to be made up from 24 symbols, each comprising one, two or three approximate semicircles oriented in one of eight directions.

It is said the the German Enigma coding machine, invented originally as a civilian machine in the early 1920s, was named in honour of Elgar's love of ciphers.

Elgar's friend Dora Penny, aka Dorabella

GET CUSTOMERS MOVING ADVERTISE

Advertisements in local newspapers and websites are the most popular way of keeping an eye on the property market

SOURCE: The Newspaper Society - Consumer Catalyst 2014

To find out more about advertising in the Express & Star call 01902 31 31 31

Express & Star

CLEARANCE CRAZY DEALS

LEVINES

FURNITURE, BED AND CARPET SUPERSTORE

CLEARANCE CRAZY DEALS

3 DAYS ONLY

SAVE UP TO 70% MASSIVE CLEARANCE EVENT SAVE UP TO 70%

CLEARANCE SALE MUST END THIS WEEKEND

Leather Look Tub Chair 1 Only : READY TO GO
Was £119 Clearance Price £49

Double Size Richmond White Sleigh Style Bedframe
Was £399 Clearance Price £199

Imperial 2.5m Wide 3 Door Slider Robe 2.23m High
Was £699 Clearance Price £499

Light Oak Effect Triple Robe with Centre Mirror and Drawers
Was £299 Clearance Price £179

Global Double Size Oak Bedframe - Sturdy Construction
Was £349 Clearance Price £189

Ravello 3 Str + 2 Str Leather Modern Sofas : 2 Colours
Was £799 Clearance Price £539

Double Size 'Cardiff' Ortho Spring Interior Mattress : 3 ONLY
Was £139 Clearance Price £75

The Laura Compact Leather Corner Suite in Black
Was £899 Clearance Price £599

CLEARANCE SALE MASSIVE STOCK CLEAROUT!

Memory Foam Delux Pillows Firm Support Limited Stock
Was £39 Clearance Price £5 Each

Single Size Sprung Mattresses Damask Quilted Cover
Was £69 Clearance Price £25

Large 3str Lush Sofa Blue Swivel Fabric : 1 only
Was £599 Clearance Price £99

Italian Leather 3str + 1 Chair Cream Leather : 1 set only
Was £1150 Clearance Price £550

Full Single Size Storage Bed Delux Mattress : Slidestorage
Was £169 Clearance Price £89

Luxury Lebus Chaise Sofa Silver Fabric : 1 only
Was £799 Clearance Price £379

3/4 Size Orthopaedic Bed Mattress and base included
Was £299 Clearance Price £169

Kingsize Ivory Metal Headboard Super Design : Limited Stock
Was £149 Clearance Price £29

Corona Mexican Pine 4 Drawer Chest - Huge Storage : 1 only
Was £159 Clearance Price £69

Double Size 4 Drawer Bed Base Silly Offer : 1 only
Was £179 Clearance Price £79

Superb Assembled Leather Dining Chairs - Ass Colours : Must Go
Was £99 Clearance Price £20 Each

Luxury Fabric 2 Str Recliner Lovely Silver Grey Fabric : 1 only
Was £699 Clearance Price £299

A Set of Solid Pine Bunk Frames with 2 Spring Mattresses
Was £337 Clearance Price £249

Solid Pine Narrow 5 Drawer Chest Assembled : 1 only to go
Was £119 Clearance Price £39

Beech Finish 4 Drawer Dressing Table - Assembled : 1 only to go
Was £139 Clearance Price £59

Larger Oak Finish Table + 6 Chairs Great value : Limited Stock
Was £469 Clearance Price £299

CLEARANCE CRAZY DEALS

LEVINES

LEVINES, OAKFIELD HOUSE, LEVEL STREET
BRIERLEY HILL 01384 79393
(Next to the Copthorne Hotel)
DOORS OPEN 9.00 AM PROMPT!

CLEARANCE CRAZY DEALS

Express & Star

MOLESKIN TROUSERS

Only £29.99 plus P&P

BUY ANY TWO PAIRS FOR £50

A classic style in hardwearing, soft, cotton moleskin, with a sturdy zip, deep quarter pockets and a practical buttoned back pocket. The trousers have a comfortable fit and flattened overstitched seams give a tailored appearance. Featuring a colour co-ordinated inner waistband and a secure hook and button fastening.

Machine washable. Available sizes: Leg - 27", 29", 31" Waist - 32", 34", 36", 38", 40", 42", 44", 46", 48"

C214NY Navy

C214OL Olive

C214RS Rust

C214BG Beige

C214BR Brown

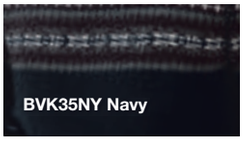
FAIR ISLE JUMPERS

Only £39 plus P&P

SAVE £41 WAS £80

The Fair Isle pattern is a design classic that has been popular since the early 1900s. This exceptionally comfortable jumper is a fantastic casual option for the colder seasons and comes in two great colours.

- 50% wool and 50% cotton
- Machine washable at 30°
- Sizes (to fit chest): S (up to 36-38"), M (39-42"), L (43-44"), XL (45-48"), XXL (49-50")


BVK35NY Navy

BVK35WN Wine

Samuel Windsor
tailored quality ~ outstanding prices

Navy

ALL WEATHER BOOTS FOR MEN & WOMEN

Only £19.99 plus P&P

BUY ANY TWO PAIRS FOR £35

Brown Camel Red Black

Be prepared for another long cold winter with these wonderfully cosy waterproof boots. Featuring slip resistant soles with a zip front, touch fasten strap and fully lined fleece inner you'll be ready to go come rain or snow. Comfortable enough to wear all day long these boots are available in four versatile colours, brown, red, camel and black. Unisex sizes 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

S120FB Black Faux Leather
S120BR Brown Faux Leather
S120CM Camel Faux Suede
S120RY Red Faux Suede

THERMAL LINED CHINOS

Only £30 plus P&P

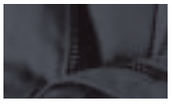
BUY ONE PAIR GET ONE FREE

With classic chino styling, soft fleece lining, two slant pockets, belt loops and two back button pockets, these traditional favourites provide the perfect solution for the colder seasons. An additional hidden expanding waist offers an extra two inches of give, enabling you to move and stretch with ease.

Sizes Leg 27" 29" 31" 33" Waist 32" 34" 36" 38" 40" 42" 44" 46" 48"

C141RS Red

C141GR Graphite


C141NY Navy

C141DB Fawn

C141BB Blue

To order call **0871 911 7011*** Quote 56687
Online at **EXPRESSANDSTARSHOP.CO.UK**
8am-8pm 7 days a week. *Calls cost 13p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

Our 'was' pricing refers to the original selling prices offered on our website www.cjoffers. co.uk, and in our retail store between 24th August and 24th November 2015. Allow 7 working days for delivery. If not happy for any reason we will accept return of faulty/unused goods in sealed original packaging for full refund or replacement within 30 days. These goods are sold and supplied by BVG-Airflo Ltd. with whom you contract when you accept this offer. A SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED ON DELIVERY.

RETURN TO: EXPRESS & STAR (56687), PO BOX 87, BRECON, LD3 3BE

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____ Initial ___ Surname _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Email _____ Tel. (for queries only) _____

I enclose my cheque/PO made payable to BVG-AIRFLO LTD for £_____ Or please debit my card £_____ ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Maestro Issue No._____

My card number is: ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ Start date: ☐☐/☐☐ Expiry date: ☐☐/☐☐ Security Number: ☐☐☐

"Midland News Association Ltd and other MNA companies or selected third parties may contact you with details of goods and services you may be interested in. By placing this order you give consent to Midland News Association Limited or selected third parties doing so, unless you have indicated your objection by ticking this box ☐ if you do not want to hear from selected third parties and ticking this box ☐ if you do not want to hear from Midland News Association Ltd."

PLEASE SEND ME	CODE(S)	SIZE	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
				Please add £4.95 P&P to entire order	£4.95
				TOTAL	

Order by 3pm 20th Dec for Xmas Delivery

fast theticket

All white on night

White Christmas at the Grand – Page 25

Ed's up

Byrne's in town – Page 25

NATIVE MONSTER
Entertainment Unleashed

For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

Celebrate with us this Christmas time
WINDSOR CASTLE INN
DY9 7DG
01384 897809
DINING DRINKS GIFTS LIVE MUSIC
☆ BREWERY ☆ BAR ☆ B&B ☆
LIVE MUSIC IN DECEMBER - SAT 5th, THURS 10th, SAT 12th, THURS 17th and THURS 24th

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, December 3, 2015

It's all happening BIRMINGHAM

GENTING ARENA

barclaycard arena

16 Dec 2015

22 – 24 Jan 2016

27 Jan 2016

30 Jan 2016

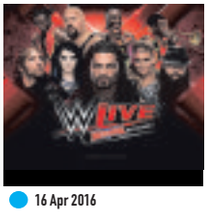
31 Jan 2016

19 Feb 2016

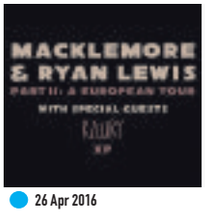
27 Feb 2016

19 Mar 2016

29 Mar 2016



16 Apr 2016



26 Apr 2016

28 Apr 2016

7 May 2016

13 May 2016

20 May 2016

18 June 2016

WHAT WILL YOU SEE NEXT?

GENTINGARENA.CO.UK
BARCLAYCARDARENA.CO.UK

theticketfactory.com

Duran Duran

Friday, 7pm
Genting Arena, B'ham
Eighties legends Duran Duran have had a resurgence in recent times and will be performing in their hometown where they formed in 1978. They will be joined by special guest, Seal.
Visit **www.gentingarena.co.uk**

Gareth Malone

Sunday, 7.30pm
Symphony Hall, B'ham
Join the nation's favourite choirmaster Gareth Malone and his new choir Voices for an all new show at Symphony Hall this weekend. Get ready to sing your hearts out.
Visit **www.thsh.co.uk**

Noel Fielding

Saturday, 7pm
Civic Hall, W'ton
Expect a magical mix of Noel's unique brand of stand-up comedy, live animation, music and some of Fielding's best known TV characters including Moon Man.
Visit **www.wolvescivic.co.uk**

Roy Wood's Rockmas

Sunday, 7pm
Barclaycard Arena, B'ham
Join Roy Wood and a whole of host of special guests including Cockney sing-a-long legends Chas and Dave to get your Christmas off to the best start possible.
Visit **www.barclaycardarena.co.uk**

POP & ROCK

From The Jam
Fri at 8.30pm, £20
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Duran Duran
Fri at 7pm, £35 - £65
Genting Arena, Birmingham,
B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Status Quo: Accept No Substitute Tour 2015
Sat at 12am, £39.50 - £42.50
Barclaycard Arena,
Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

The Twilight Sad
Wed at 7pm, £12
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Ash
Wed at 7pm, £17
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall,
WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

The Levellers
Fri at 7pm, £25
Wolverhampton Civic Hall,
WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Maxi Jazz And The E-Type Boys
Wed at 7pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Caro Emerald
Mon, Tue at 7.30pm - 10pm,
£22.50 - £125
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Hazel O'Connor
Sun at 6.30pm - 11pm, £22
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Labour Of Love: UB40 Tribute
Sat - Sun at 7.30pm - 2am,
£8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397177

The Dead Daisies
Sat at 7pm, £12.50
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,
WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

Fred Skidmore Trio
Thu at 8pm,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

Kill The Romantic
Sat at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Major Toms
Fri - Sat at 9pm - 2am,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Geoff Tate
Thu at 7.30pm,
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397177

Supreme Queen :Queen Tribute
Sat at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Mike Sanchez & The Portions
Wed at 9.15pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Roy Ayers & his band
Sun at 8.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Rutles
Tue at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Bob Marley Tribute
Sat at 8pm,
Knights Quest, Rowley Regis
B65 0EE.
Call 0121 561 5599

Grifter
Fri - Sat at 8pm - 1am,
The Boars Head,
Kidderminster, DY10 1EW.
Call 01562 861870

Belphegor
Wed at 7pm, £15
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,
WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Tygers Of Pan Tang
Mon at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Fish: Farewell to Childhood – SOLD OUT
Wed at 7.30pm, £25
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

The Bright Eyes
Thu at 9pm, £5
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397177

Bleeding Hearts
Sat - Sun at 8pm - 1am, Free
The Boars Head,
Kidderminster, DY10 1EW.
Call 01562 861870

Scouting For Girls
Sat at 7pm, £22.50
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Half Man Half Biscuit
Thu at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Pelo
Friday at 10pm, £3-5
The Grapes, Stafford,
ST16 2HZ.
Call 07989 174631

The Stranglers tribute by Straighten Out
Sat at 7.30pm, £6/£8
Arena Aldridge,
Walsall, WS9 8QR
Call 0844 884 2920

Roy Wood Rockmas
Sun at 7pm,
Barclaycard Arena,
Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Gig Caritas Xmas Show
Thu at 8pm
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge,
DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

SOUL & BLUES

The Magic Of Motown
Sun at 7.30pm, £24.50
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Urban Soul Family
Fri at 5pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

The Soul Survivors
Fri at 7.30pm, £10
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397177

Miss Led
Sun at 8pm, Free
The Grapes, Stafford,
ST16 2HZ.
Call 07989 174631

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

The Albion Christmas Band
Tue at 8pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Martyn Joseph
Sun at 7.30pm - 11pm, £16
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Irish Music Session
Wed at 8pm,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Handel's Messiah
Fri at 7pm - 10pm, £11 - £37
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Ex Cathedra: Bach Christmas Oratorio
Sun at 4pm - 6.30pm,
£9.50 - £35
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Performance Platform: Liang Shan
Tue at 1.05pm - 2pm,
£3.50 - £6.50
Birmingham Conservatoire,
Birmingham City University,
B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

Birmingham Children's Hospital Christmas Concert
Wed at 7.45pm - 9.45pm,
Birmingham Cathedral,
Birmingham, B3 2QB.
Call 0121 262 1840

Christmas Celebration Concert
Sat at 7pm - 10.30pm,
The Bonded Warehouse,
Stourbridge, DY8 4LU.
Call 01384 395216

Christmas Carol Concerts
Mon at 7.30pm - 9pm, Tue at 7.30pm - 9pm,
Wightwick Manor and Gardens,
Wolverhampton, WV6 8EE.
Call 01902 760100

Orchestras, Ensembles And Chamber Music: 'Twas The Bard Before Christmas
Fri at 7pm, £4 - £6.50
Birmingham Conservatoire,
Birmingham City University,
B3 3HG.
Call 0121 331 5901

Gareth Malone
Sun at 7.30pm - 10pm,
£25 - £99
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

BICS 2015/16: Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra
Thu at 7.30pm, £9.50 - £45
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

BPSO Proms Night Spectacular
Sat at 7.30pm, £12 - £22
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Sing Carols With The City Organist
Mon at 1pm, £8.50 - £10
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

Birmingham Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
7.30pm, Sun at 1pm, Tue at 2pm,
7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at
2pm, 7.30pm, 7.30pm,
£19 - £56
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

The Nativity 2015
Wed at 7.30pm - 9pm, Thu at
7.30pm - 9pm,
St Paul's Church, Birmingham,
B3 1QZ.
Call 0121 236 7858

The Lion The Witch And The Wardrobe
Fri at 10.15am, Mon at 10.15am,
2.30pm, Wed at 10.15am,
2.30pm, £7.50 - £35
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Guys And Dolls
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
7.30pm, £15 - £47.50
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Jack And The Beanstalk
Mon - Thu at 10.30am, 1.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

White Christmas: South Staffs Musical Theatre Company
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
7.30pm, £10 - £19.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Dynamo
Wed at 8pm, Thu at 8pm,
£33.20 - £99.70
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham,
B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

COMEDY

Ed Byrne: Outside Looking In
Wed at 8pm, £19 - £21
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Thu at 8pm, £19 - £21
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall,
WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Justin Moorhouse: Destiny Calling
Thu at 8pm, £15
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Andy Parsons
Thu at 8pm, £15 - £16.50
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Comedy In The Met
Sat at 8pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Fitz Of Laughter
Fri at 8pm
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

An Evening With Noel Fielding
Sat at 8pm, £25
Wolverhampton Civic Hall,
WV1 1RQ. 0870 320 7000

OTHER EVENTS

The Christmas Story For Young Children And Their Carers (Ages 0-5)
Fri at 10.30am,
Birmingham Cathedral, B3 2QB.
Call 0121 262 1840

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Dream of a Grand White Christmas

WITH weather forecasts threatening the white stuff and yuletide fast approaching, festive favourite, White Christmas, staged by South Staffs Musical Theatre Company, has arrived at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

The musical opened this week and continues through to Saturday with nightly performances at 7.30pm, plus a 2.30pm matinee on Saturday.

Irving Berlin's classic Christmas offering, which became a 1954 movie starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney and Vera Allen, is a relatively new stage adaptation for amateur performance.

The score includes a host of well-known songs including Count Your Blessings, Let Yourself Go, Happy Holidays, Blue Skies, I Love A Piano and, of course, the title song.

Simon McGee from Lower Gornal is playing Bing Crosby's character, Bob Wallace. "It was a fantastic feeling when I found out I had got the part of Bob Wallace in White Christmas," says Simon. " I mean, to play the male lead in this wonderful show at Christmas is the icing on the cake in a very special year for me.

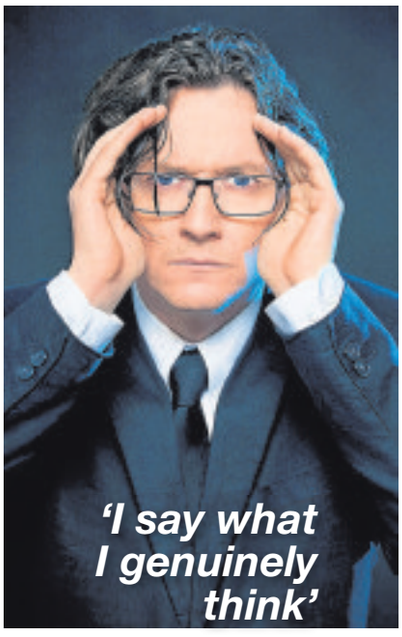
"It has been an amazing experience, but very challenging, especially the dancing. I think I have lost a stone in weight during the gruelling regime that our choreographer, Maria Shee has put us through.

"I love playing opposite Lexie Bennett who plays Betty Hayes, Rebecca Haydon who plays her sister, Judy, and my cheeky chappy partner in crime, Luke Renwick who plays my sidekick, Phil Davis. We have had such a good giggle during rehearsals."

Lexie Bennett plays Bob's reluctant love interest, Betty Hayes, with Rebecca Haydon as her sister Judy. The girls have had great fun with their roles and in particular have enjoyed singing the classic duet Sisters complete with huge feather fans.

With tap dancing, superb score, heart-warming storyline, snow falling on stage and on the audience, and a huge Christmas tree, who could ask for more? Call 01902 429212 or visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk

Rebecca Haydon and Lexie Bennett star in White Christmas at the Grand Theatre



Family life inspires Ed

MOCK the Week star Ed Byrne is an established touring favourite, and despite his youthful looks the Irishman recently marked up 20 years as a comic.

His latest show of observational comedy, Outside, Looking In, is at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton next Thursday (December 10) before the tour returns to the West Midlands at Birmingham Town Hall on February 19.

The new show covers a wide range of subjects – from a gastric illness to UKIP – but he talks a lot about his family. It's his most personal yet.

"I didn't make a conscious effort to write a more personal show, but that was what was coming out when I started writing it," Ed says.

"People come to see me for a laugh and I would like to think they go away thinking the show is quite heartwarming. A lot of comics may talk about the same stuff, but what makes it mine is that what I'm saying is what I genuinely think on this subject, and I try to make it as funny as I can. I think we all mine our lives to some degree or other."

Ed is adamant that he will keep his two young sons out of the celebrity spotlight, but in Outside, Looking In, he shows a picture of one of his sons — the denouement of a bittersweet story about buying new shoes – which not only illustrates it perfectly, but produces an "Aaaah" moment.

"I'm aware that they haven't given me permission to talk about them and that there will come a point when I can't," Ed says. "I talk about them in pretty abstract terms, because what I'm discussing is the act of parenting, and you can't talk about that without mentioning your own children."

Music and laughter will rock the Robin

JAZZ and funk fans will be heading for Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Sunday for a rare Midlands appearance by American vibes player Roy Ayers and his Band. On stage at 8.30, Ayers has had R&B hits and been an inspiration to both acid jazz and hip-hop scenes.

Other tasty gigs at the Mount Pleasant venue include The Jam's bassist Bruce Foxton in the From The Jam Sound Affects Show tomorrow (Fri). Metal legends Tygers of Pan Tang on Monday, and the comedy genius of Neil Innes with his Beatles parody The Rutles on Tuesday. Wednesday sees the return of Worcestershire rock 'n' roller Mike Sanchez & The Portions.

Dynamo bringing his first live tour

TV magician Dynamo is bringing his Seeing Is Believing show to Birmingham Barclaycard Arena for five consecutive nights from Wednesday. He has added an extra performance at 2.30pm on December 12.

The hip street magician from Bradford, real name Steven Frayne, has amazed viewers with stunts that have included walking on water on the Thames and levitating above London skyscraper The Shard.

Dynamo says: "I am hoping that like I did for magic on TV, I can reinvent the live magic show and produce something fans have never seen before. "

Tickets start from £37.25.

Guy decides to get busier at 40

TAKING a break from his day job as the frontman of Ramsbottom's finest alternative rock quartet Elbow, Guy Garvey will be at the O2 Academy Birmingham tonight (Thu), touring in support of his debut solo effort, the critically-acclaimed Courting The Squall.

Why a solo album? He says: "I'm pretty sure it was the 40 thing. Around 40, I thought, I'm officially a middle-aged man. I should do more work. There should be more output than 10 songs every two years. I flung myself at it. There's a vastness to Elbow records, in places, almost a regal thing. This record is more rough and ready."

WELCOME TO THE
SAMSON & LION
Saturday 5th December
Knockout
DARTS
Tournament
2pm Start
WE OFFER
Free Wi-Fi
Venue hire
A sun-trap patio
Summer BBQ's
Skittle alley hire
EVENTS
It doesn't matter what day it is, there's always something going on at the Sammy. From karaoke to pool competitions, bingo to live music, you'll find something to suit your mood.
We also hold a popular music festival a couple of times a year and plans are underway to create a Folk/Jazz club in the cellar bar (musicians get in touch!).
Here's what a typical week entails at the Samson and Lion of Stourbridge.
BAND REHEARSALS / MEETING ROOM
FUNCTION ROOM FOR HIRE
Fridays
Karaoke unless function prohibits.
Saturdays
Bonus Ball Pay-out and many functions.
Sundays
Meat Raffle - Drawn at 1 pm. £1 per strip for a chance of 3 or more prizes. Free bar snacks.
With homemade food and a wide selection of beers, ciders, wines and spirits on offer, every night offers something different.
Why not join us?
SAMSON AND LION
BRIERLEY HILL ROAD, WORDSLEY, STOURBRIDGE, WEST MIDLANDS DY8 5SP
07930 473482

Christmas Craft Fayre
at the Red House Glass
5 & 6 December 10am to 4pm
FREE admission
• Stalls selling hand crafted goods
• Children's entertainment and crafts
• Open studios
• Glass making demonstrations
• Red Cone Coffee House
Call 01384 812750 or visit
www.redhousecone.co.uk
Red House Glass Cone, High Street, Wordsley DY8 4AZ
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

THE TALBOT HOTEL
STOURBRIDGE

BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN FOR
CHRISTMAS PARTIES
CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH
BOXING DAY CARVERY
NYE PARTY WITH DISCO £12.95PP
We are now licensed to hold civil wedding ceremonies
The Talbot Hotel
High Street, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 1DW
Tel: 01384 394350 F: 01384 371318
E: info@thetalbot-hotel.co.uk
www.thetalbot-hotel.co.uk

THE GLASSCUTTERS ARMS

Regular Guest Beers, Every 2 Weeks
Including Enville & Holdens
All Premier League Football Shown
Free Snacks During Matches
Open: Monday- Thursday 3pm- 11.30
Friday 3pm- 12 • Saturday 12.30pm- 12
Sunday 12pm- 11
9 BARNETT STREET,
WORDSLEY, DY8 5QL

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, December 3, 2015

Discerning and well-Red

With a bounty of exotic dishes to choose from, **MARK SHIPP** found India Red restaurant was the hottest ticket in town

"WE know there's competition, but if everyone knows their palate and knows their own food, they will tell the difference."

So says Zub Ahmed, proprietor of the India Red Restaurant in Hednesford. Having been there for 12 years, Zub and his restaurant have become established fixures.

But, with a cluster of Indian restaurants within such a short distance, he knows he has to stay ahead of the game to keep his regular customers happy.

With that in mind, the menu is changed on a regular basis to offer new dishes, while the chef is known for either creating new lines or putting his own stamp on traditional ones.

And, it's fair to say that the 110-seat restaurant is doing very nicely for itself, thank you.

Ushered

It was a busy night in the Market Street premises when my partner and I ventured out. We had to wait a while for our meals, but that was no problem. The best things come those who wait, they say, and I always believe that quick service does not always represent the best quality. On this occasion, the food really was worth the wait. And there was enough left over for a mini-feast the following day.

Seating downstairs at India Red is provided for couples or small parties, while upstairs tends to cater for the larger groups. As it is open plan, however, my better half did comment on how noisy it might be.

Decor-wise India Red is tastefully done, with background music that one tends not to notice as it does little to drown out the general hubbub from the diners.

The outside view of India Red restaurant, which can be found at 44, Market Street, Hednesford

The tasteful decor on show with seating available for over 100

Minor quibbles aside, the food is the main attraction. The poppadoms were moreish, but served only to whet the appetite for what was to come. We were asked to try out a range of starters, and other menu items we had not ordered found their way to our table. Generous, and obviously done to impress.

But while appreciated, it was also unnecessary as we felt suitably plenished. And we'd already been impressed by the fare.

Zub explained that his Bangladeshi chef had served eight years at India Red, but was always looking to improve on standards. He even took the time, despite the hectic evening, to explain some of the methods and ingredients behind some of the dishes.

Take the malai kufta, for example, meatballs in a sweet and spicy cheese sauce. It contains yoghurt and honey to give it that sweetness, and perfectly offset the Amritsar chicken, with its hidden kick due to garam masala and panch puran mix.

That was just a taster. The menu comprises traditional dishes and India Red specials, but the beauty is that each dish is colour-co-ordinated according to the heat factor, from a sweet and creamy grey to a red vindaloo hot.

My other half didn't need to worry about her tried and trusted makhani chicken, while I stepped into the unknown for the salmon surprise, the twist being that it actually wasn't a curry – and it came with chicken, in tiny pieces, added to a bed of mashed potatoes. Not what I was expecting. Good, though, but without a curry it was dry, so the beef haleem – a newcomer to the menu – was a welcome accompaniment. And what a curry that was. It was mild, but had a tangy taste, emanating from its mix of spices, sugar and vinegar. Worthy of a visit for that alone.

India Red is open Sunday to Thursday from 5.30 to 11.30pm and until 1am on Friday and Saturday. It is currently taking bookings for Christmas. Call 01543 424769 or 426611.

The KOYLA KITCHEN GRILL & CARVERY AT THE THORNS

BOOK NOW FOR CHRISTMAS:
TEL : 01384 424045
Thorns Road, Brierley Hill, DY5 2JY
LETS BECOME FRIENDS:
www.koylakitchen.co.uk

NOW OPEN

SPORTS LOUNGE
LIVE SPORTS
DON'T MISS ANY OF THE ACTION, A GREAT PLACE FOR A GOOD VALUE PINT AND EXCELLENT FOOD. TUCK IN.
Sky SPORTS
BT Sport
WiFi

FRESH FOOD
SERVED EVERYDAY
12 midday TILL 10pm
GRILL CARVERY STEAKS
VEGETARIAN OPTIONS DESSERTS WINES

OPENING OFFER
20% OFF FOOD
Thorns Road, Brierley Hill, DY5 2JY
MON - THUR
12 - 7pm
OFFER VALID WITH THIS COUPON ONLY
NO PHOTOCOPIES ACCEPTED
CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFER
ONE COUPON UP TO MAXIMUM OF 4 PEOPLE
VALID ON CARVERY & GRILL MAIN MEALS
EXCLUDES DESSERTS, DRINKS, SENIOR'S CARVERY OFFER AND CHRISTMAS MENUS
VALID UNTIL: 10/12/2015

FREE

PINT OF ALE
with every GRILL MAIN ORDER

CHOICE

Stephen Mulhern

Catchphrase Celebrity Couples Special (ITV, 5.45pm)

The latest series of Stephen Mulhern's revived version of the classic game show comes to a conclusion with a Catchphrase first. Although Mulhern has presided over six star-studded one-offs during his two-year tenure, this will be the first celebrity couples special. He invites This Morning presenters Eamonn Holmes and Ruth Langsford, comedian/actors Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, and former Westlife singer Brian McFadden and his now ex-wife, Irish model Vogue Williams, to 'say what they see'. The famous duos attempt to correctly identify popular phrases based on illustrative cartoons, in the hope of score enough points to win a cash prize for their charity of choice.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Simply Nigella. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **1.00** Live Snooker: UK Championship. Coverage of the first semi-final from York. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.50** BBC News.

6.00 Regional Programme.

6.10 Pointless Celebrities. Peter Ratcliffe, Jeff Salmon, Jacqueline Gold, Richard Farleigh, Tim Campbell, Saira Khan, Michelle Mone and Declan Curry take part in a business-themed edition of the quiz.

7.00 Strictly Come Dancing. The six remaining couples take part in routines celebrating popular musical numbers from the stage and screen, with the two least successful pairs facing a dance-off tomorrow.

8.00 Doctor Who. The Doctor faces a bittersweet homecoming as, betrayed and trapped, with both his hearts broken, he demonstrates just how far he would be willing to go if someone took everything he cared about from him. With his quest to reach Gallifrey seemingly over, the Time Lord engages his own people in a struggle that will take him to the very end of time itself, but who is the mysterious "Hybrid" mentioned in the Gallifreyan prophecy? And just what was it the Doctor left behind as his "confession"? Peter Capaldi stars in the series finale, but will return later this year alongside Alex Kingston's River Song for the traditional Christmas special. Last in the series.

9.05 Casualty. The onset of winter and harsh conditions give some people a chance to come together, but also threaten to tear others apart. Medical drama, starring Amanda Mealing.

9.55 The National Lottery Live. Ore Oduba presents as the all-important winning numbers are revealed.

10.05 BBC News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches; National Lottery Update.

11.55 The Apprentice. (R)

12.55 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 Race to Super Bowl 50. (R) **7.00 Film:** The Amazing Mr Blunden. (1972) Children's fantasy, starring Laurence Naismith. **8.35 Film:** Beverly Hills Chihuahua. (2008) Comedy, with the voice of Drew Barrymore. **10.00** Ronnie's Animal Crackers. (R) **10.30** Ronnie's Animal Crackers. (R) **11.00** The Wonder of Animals. **11.30** Animal Park. (R) **12.00** My Life on a Plate. (R) **12.45** Len and Ainsley's Big Food Adventure. (R) **1.30** Len and Ainsley's Big Food Adventure. (R) **2.15 Film:** Saboteur. (1942) Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Robert Cummings. **4.00** Flog It! Trade Secrets. **4.30** Live Snooker: UK Championship. Further coverage of the first semi-final from York. **5.30** The Great Pottery Throw Down. (R)

6.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring orders Wilson to bring the platoon back from a grudge match against the ARP wardens' darts team and get the men back on parade. The captain then takes a call warning of a suspected terrorist in Walmington-on-Sea and decides to deal with the situation himself. Comedy first broadcast in 1970, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)

7.00 Live Snooker: UK Championship. Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the second semi-final from the Barbican Centre in York, as the tournament widely regarded as the second-most prestigious on the calendar continues. Last year's semi-finals saw Ronnie O'Sullivan, Stuart Bingham, Judd Trump and Stephen Maguire battling it out for a place in the showpiece match. O'Sullivan narrowly defeated Bingham and Trump overcame Maguire to set up a mouthwatering clash between two of the sport's most charismatic characters. With commentary by Steve Davis, Ken Doherty and Stephen Hendry.

10.00 QI XL. Extended edition. Noel Fielding, Ross Noble and Colin Lane join regular panellist Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of unusual questions on the topic of kit and kaboodle.

10.45 Film: Glory. (1989) Oscar-winning fact-based historical drama about the first all-black regiment to fight in the American Civil War. Starring Denzel Washington, Matthew Broderick and Morgan Freeman.

12.40 Film: Come As You Are. (2011) Comedy drama, starring Tom Audenaert. **2.25** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Super 4. (R) **7.40** Adventure Time. **8.00** Marvel Avengers Assemble. **8.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** Countrywise. (R) **10.55** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.00** ITV News; Weather. **12.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.10** Judge Rinder. (R) **2.15** Doc Martin. (R) **3.20 Film:** E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial. (1982) Sci-fi fantasy, with Henry Thomas. **5.30** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** Catchphrase Celebrity Couples Special.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh invites Kaye Adams, Mark Bright, Jayne Torvill and Richard Arnold to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in an attempt to win thousands of pounds for charity.

8.00 The X Factor. The would-be stars face the sixth and penultimate round of nerve-racking live performances. As ever, Simon Cowell, Nick Grimshaw, Rita Ora and Cheryl Fernandez-Versini are on hand to judge the contestant's abilities with the mic, and presenters Caroline Flack and Olly Murs offer the singers much-needed moral support on-stage. Following today's show, the least successful contestants face another tense sing-off tomorrow, after which one unlucky act will be eliminated, leaving the finalists to progress through to the contest's last round next weekend.

9.30 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec present the celebrity challenge and reveal which celebrity has fallen at the last hurdle, before they crown the King or Queen of the Jungle on tomorrow night's show.

10.35 The Jonathan Ross Show. American actor Burt Reynolds, and Star Trek and Mission: Impossible star Simon Pegg join Jonathan in the studio. Includes music by guests Coldplay.

11.40 ITV News; Weather.

11.55 The Chase. Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)

12.45 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** The King of Queens. (R) **7.00** The King of Queens. (R) **7.25** The Grid. **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. **11.55** The Big Bang Theory. **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Sandown Park and Aintree. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.05 Come Dine with Me. Stephen Drew hosts the final dinner party in east Kent, and plans to spend a lot of time entertaining his guests during the Ab-Fab-themed evening, before the winner is announced. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Great Polar Bear Feast. Documentary charting the extraordinary gathering of polar bears that occurs every year in early September off the Arctic coast of Alaska. Up to 80 bears congregate on the frozen shores of Barter Island near the Inupiat village of Kaktovik, where they feast on the remains of hunter-harvested bowhead whales. Polar bears are typically intensely solitary creatures, so this behaviour is highly atypical.

8.00 The World's Weirdest Weather. Featuring icy waves in the Arctic, earthquakes in England, floods, exploding rocks and lights in the sky that coincide with seismic activity.

9.00 Film: Non-Stop. (2014) Premiere. An air marshal on a transatlantic flight receives mysterious messages in which an anonymous terrorist threatens to kill one passenger every 20 minutes unless a ransom is paid. He searches the plane for the criminals responsible, but his investigation is threatened when he is framed as being the mastermind behind the plot. Action thriller, starring Liam Neeson, Julianne Moore and Lupita Nyong'o.

11.10 TFI Friday. (R)

12.10 Film: The Descendants. (2011) **2.10** Fargo. (R) **3.15** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.20** River Cottage Bites. (R) **5.35** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **5.40** 1001 Things You Should Know. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **9.30** The Saturday Show. **11.30 Film:** A Christmas Promise. (2015) Romantic drama, starring Patrick Muldoon. **1.15 Film:** Hats Off to Christmas! (2013) Romantic drama, with Haylie Duff and Antonio Cupo. **3.00 Film:** A Snow Globe Christmas. (2013) Premiere. Festive fantasy, starring Alicia Witt. **4.50 Film:** The Christmas Spirit. (2013) Premiere. Fantasy, starring Nicollette Sheridan.

6.35 5 News Weekend.

6.40 Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. Comedy clip show featuring pranks gone wrong, unwise acts and failed attempts of misplaced ambition.

7.05 Ultimate Police Interceptors. Highlights of the documentary following the work of a specialist pursuit team using an array of high-performance cars equipped with technology for catching law-breakers. (R)

8.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. In Bedfordshire, agents Paul and Steve try to evict a community of travellers who have set up home in a private car park, however they receive a hostile response and must react to prevent the situation from spiralling out of control. Elsewhere, Stewart and Elmore chase a debt of over £3,000 in Merseyside, and in East London, Paul and Steve attempt to evict a Romanian family who stopped paying rent seven months ago. Plus, Stuart and Vic try to recover £5,000 owed by a forklift truck company after an agreement went sour. (R)

9.00 Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches, as well as all the goals from the Championship, League One and League Two, including Leeds United v Hull City at Elland Road.

10.30 Live International Boxing. Lenny Daws v Ruben Nieto. Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the bout for the European Super Lightweight title, which takes place at Westcott Leisure Centre in Carshalton, Surrey.

12.00 Film: Reservoir Dogs. (1992) Thriller, starring Harvey Keitel. **1.45** SuperCasino. **3.10** Dino Autopsy: T-Rex. Investigating the anatomy of the dinosaur. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 World's Craziest Fools **7.30** Don't Tell the Bride **8.30** Top Gear **9.30** Live at the Apollo **11.00** Family Guy **1.15** Rent a Cop **1.45** Josh **2.15** Live at the Apollo **3.00** World's Craziest Fools **3.30** Josh **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Empire of the Seas: How the Navy Forged the Modern World **8.00** Britain's Outlaws: Highwaymen, Pirates and Rogues **9.00** The Bridge **11.00** Catching History's Criminals: The Forensics Story **12.00** I'm Not In Love: The Story of 10cc **1.00** Top of the Pops: 1980 **1.40** The Old Grey Whistle Test: 70s Gold

ITV2

11.15 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **12.15** The Xtra Factor **1.20** The Hot Desk: Fleur East **1.30** Scorpion **2.25 Film:** The Polar Express (2004) **4.20** You've Been Framed At Christmas! **4.45** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **5.50 Film:** Lost in Space (1998) **8.20 Film:** Back to the Future Part II (1989) **10.35** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.35** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **12.35** Viral Tap **1.20** Crazy Beaches **1.45** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.10** Animal Practice **2.30** Meghan Trainor: The Hot Desk **2.40** Teleshopping

ITV3

12.55 Film: Carry On Screaming (1966) **2.55** A Touch of Frost **5.00 Film:** Columbo: Now You See Him (1976) **6.55** Doc Martin **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Foyle's War **12.05** A Touch of Frost **2.00** On the Buses **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

1.40 Storage Wars: New York **2.45 Film:** The Secret War of Harry Frigg (1967) **5.00** The Car Chasers **6.00** Fifth Gear **7.00** Storage Wars: Texas **8.00** River Monsters **9.00 Film:** Texas Killing Fields (2011) **11.10 Film:** We Were Soldiers (2002) **1.55** The Big Fish Off **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.00 Couples Come Dine with Me **2.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** The Goldbergs **3.30 Film:** Astro Boy (2009) **5.15** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** The Simpsons Movie (2007) **9.50** Gogglebox **12.00** The Inbetweeners **1.00** The IT Crowd **2.00** First Dates **3.00** Rules of Engagement

Film4

11.00 The Three Stooges (2012) **1.00** Rat Race (2001) **3.10** The Cat Returns (2002) **4.45** The Rocketeer (1991) **6.55** One Day (2011) **9.00** Immortals (2011) **11.10** Stoker (2013) **1.10** The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets' Nest (2010)

Subject to availability, while stocks last. No booking required. Christmas tree promise: See online for details. 25% off string lights excludes solar lighting.

CHOICE

Declan Donnelly

I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!
(ITV, 9pm)
Ant and Dec present the final of the 15th series, as the last famous faces left in the camp face the last challenges in the Australian jungle. Viewers' votes will decide who has been this year's favourite contestant, and when the results are in, this year's king or queen of the jungle will be crowned, before the last handful of contestants return home. The presenters will be catching up with the contestants later in the week for a special follow-up show as they return to normal life after the hardships of the Bush. Last in the series.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets Linford Christie. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Escape to the Country. **1.45** FA Cup Final Score. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** The Hunt. (R) **5.50** BBC News.

6.10 Regional Programme.

6.20 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison and Joe Crowley take a tour of some of Scotland's most remote scenic areas, visiting Britain's highest road, which runs 2,000 feet above sea level, meeting a couple who have made a new life as crofters, and discovering a fish that could solve all the salmon industry's problems. Plus, Tom Heap reports on the rising number of traffic accidents on rural roads and Adam Henson examines how straw may be the key to the UK's future energy production. Including Weather For The Week Ahead.

7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman reveal the results of last night's musicals themed episode and another couple is eliminated.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from the Queen's private residence at Balmoral, where items brought in to be valued include a ceramic pot made by Pablo Picasso.

9.00 The Hunt. How predators hunt in coastal waters, where everything is in constant motion and opportunities have to be taken quickly. Featuring dolphins, octopuses and fishing wolves.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action between Newcastle United and Liverpool at St James' Park, as the Magpies looked for a win to move them up the table.

11.20 Citizen Khan. Amjad's mother threatens to solve her son and Shazia's housing problems by taking them with her to live in Bradford, while Mr Khan becomes convinced his grandson is psychic. (R)

11.50 The Graham Norton Show. (R)

12.35 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.40 BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.00** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** An Island Parish: Falklands. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Len and Ainsley's Big Food Adventure. (R) **11.45** Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Live Snooker: UK Championship. Coverage of the opening session of the final from York.

6.00 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Action from the weekend's second-round matches, as the remaining sides from League One, League Two and non-league football looked to make it to round three and potentially lucrative games against Premier League or Championship opposition. Standout ties in this round included Hartlepool United's trip to Salford City – part-owned by former Manchester United stars Gary and Phil Neville, Paul Scholes, Ryan Giggs and Nicky Butt. Elsewhere, 2008 winners Portsmouth met Accrington Stanley, and Rochdale played Bury in an all-League-One affair.

7.00 Live Snooker: UK Championship. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the concluding session of the final from the Barbican Centre in York, as the tournament widely regarded as the second-most prestigious on the calendar comes to an end. Ronnie O'Sullivan won the title last year but is not taking part this time around, having been advised by doctors not to compete on the professional tour until the debilitating insomnia he has been suffering from improves. With a commentary team including Dennis Taylor, Stephen Hendry and Steve Davis. Subsequent programmes are subject to change.

11.00 Film: Brooklyn's Finest. (2009) Three Brooklyn police officers face contrasting personal dilemmas as their careers converge at a single moment. Crime thriller, starring Richard Gere.

1.05 Sign Zone: Countryfile. Artist Matt Sewell shows Ellie Harrison how he captures the character of birds, and John Craven visits a seed bank in Shropshire that is trying to preserve endangered trees. (R) **2.00** Holby City. Arthur and Morven struggle to rekindle their friendship after clashing over patient care, while Dom is distracted by a patient that he has fallen for. (R) **3.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Super 4. (R) **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **8.00** Marvel Avengers Assemble. **8.30** Fish Hooks. **8.45** Fish Hooks. **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.35** ITV News; Weather. **12.45** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.50** The Chase. (R) **2.55** The X Factor. (R) **4.30 Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor. (2008) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Brendan Fraser.

6.30 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Jekyll and Hyde. Part one of two. Robert struggles to control his transformations, and joins forces with a vigilante to investigate a series of strange killings in exchange for Ravi's freedom.

8.00 The X Factor. Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present the results of the weekend's viewers' vote, deciding which acts will be eliminated and who will be performing in next week's final.

9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Ant and Dec present the final of the 15th series, as the last famous faces left in the camp face the last challenges in the Australian jungle. Viewers' votes will decide who has been this year's favourite contestant, and when the results are in, this year's king or queen of the jungle will be crowned, before the last handful of contestants return home. The presenters will be catching up with the contestants later in the week for a special follow-up show as they return to normal life after the hardships of the Bush. Last in the series.

10.35 ITV News; Weather.

10.50 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the latest round of fixtures in England's top flight, including Worcester Warriors v Leicester Tigers, Harlequins v London Irish and Wasps v Exeter Chiefs.

11.50 Off Their Rockers. The hidden-camera show continues. (R)

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** Challenge Mallorca. **7.05** World Superbike Review of the Year. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.45** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.10** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.40** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.10** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.35** The Simpsons. (R) **3.05** The Simpsons. (R) **3.35 Film:** Journey to the Center of the Earth. (2008) Fantasy adventure, starring Brendan Fraser. **5.25 Film:** The Jungle Book. (1967) Premiere. A boy raised by animals finds his life threatened when a tiger returns to his jungle home. Disney animated adventure, with the voices of Phil Harris and George Sanders.

7.00 Channel 4 News.

7.30 World's Weirdest Homes. Charlie Luxton presents a guide to 20 of the most unusual residences ever built, before revealing what he considers the weirdest house on Earth. Residences featured include a skip that provides living space for an artist, a rotating house, a plane in the middle of a forest, a converted nuclear missile silo, a perfect replica of the family home from The Munsters, a summerhouse by a frequently flooding river and an apartment block that looks like a giant snake.

9.00 Homeland. The CIA agents put their plans into action, but the German foreign intelligence agency BND also has an operation of their own that is about to be completed. Thriller following a team of CIA agents, starring Claire Danes.

10.05 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.05 Film: The Five-Year Engagement. (2012) A couple decide to get married, but unexpected changes in their lives keep them from making it to the altar. Romantic comedy, starring Jason Segel, Emily Blunt and Rhys Ifans.

1.15 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. This Morning hosts Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby join the comedian for his entertainment chat show, packed with sketches, topical discussion and audience participation. (R) **2.10** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **3.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **5.05** Location, Location, Location. House-hunting in Liverpool. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.15** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.30** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.40** Zack and Quack. (R) **6.50** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.20** Little Princess. (R) **7.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.30** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.45** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **8.55** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.10** LazyTown. (R) **9.40** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.15** Football League Tonight. (R) **11.40** The Gadget Show. (R) **12.45 Film:** Christmas Mix. (2014) Premiere. Romantic comedy, starring Haylie Duff. **2.30 Film:** Call Me Claus. (2001) Christmas family drama, starring Whoopi Goldberg. **4.20 Film:** Santa Who? (2000) Santa Claus crashes his sleigh and loses his memory. A youngster tries to help him beat the amnesia in time for Christmas. Family comedy, starring Leslie Nielsen.

6.10 Film: Bruce Almighty. (2003) God tires of a down-on-his-luck reporter's constant complaining, so passes on His powers to give him a taste of ultimate responsibility. The newsman falls in love with his extraordinary abilities – but a never-ending stream of incoming prayers and his ambitious attempt to please everyone soon prove there is more to the job than meets the eye. Comedy, starring Jim Carrey, Jennifer Aniston and Morgan Freeman.

8.10 Film: Bulletproof Monk. (2003) A mysterious Tibetan monk is entrusted with protecting an ancient and mystical scroll. As modern-day Nazis seek out the relic in a bid to resurrect the Third Reich, the monk searches for a suitable successor to take over his task – and a pickpocket is the unlikely choice. Martial arts thriller, starring Chow Yun-Fat, Seann William Scott, Jaime King, Victoria Smurfit and Karel Roden. Edited for violence.

9.55 5 News Weekend.

10.00 Film: Django Unchained. (2012) Premiere. An escaped slave becomes a bounty hunter and fights to rescue his wife from a sadistic plantation owner. Quentin Tarantino's Western, with Jamie Foxx and Christoph Waltz.

1.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **9.30 Film:** 8 Mile (2002) **11.15** Family Guy **12.00** American Dad! **12.25** Family Guy **12.45** Josh **1.15** People Just Do Nothing **3.15** Josh **3.45** Sunny D **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Concerto at the BBC Proms **7.25 Film:** Pina: Legend of Dance (2011) **9.00** The Golden Age of Steam Railways **10.00 Film:** Easy Money (2010) **12.00** Britain's Natural World: The Unnatural History of London **1.00** Britain's Deadliest Rail Disaster: Quintinshill **2.00** Horizon: Are We Alone in the Universe? **2.50** Natural World: Polar Bears and Grizzlies – Bears on Top of the World **3.40** Close

ITV2
11.00 The X Factor **12.35** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **1.35** You've Been Framed Christmas! **2.35** Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas **3.35 Film:** The Polar Express (2004) **5.35** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **6.40 Film:** Back to the Future Part III (1990) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** You've Been Framed At Christmas! **10.35** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.35** Plebs **12.35 Film:** The Faculty (1998) **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV3
12.50 Film: Columbo: Now You See Him (1976) **2.50** Rosemary & Thyme **3.50** Wycliffe **4.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **8.00** Lewis **10.00 Film:** The Constant Gardener (2005) **12.30 Film:** Till Death Us Do Part (1969) **2.25** Wycliffe **3.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
11.35 Shed and Buried **1.35** Pawn Stars **3.25 Film:** The 'Burbs (1989) **5.30 Film:** Blues Brothers 2000 (1998) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** Kull the Conqueror (1997) **11.05 Film:** Daylight (1996) **1.20** Ray Mears' Close Encounters **2.15** Ax Men **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.35 Film: City of Ember (2008) **2.25** Couples Come Dine with Me **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Rush Hour 3 (2007) **10.45** The Inbetweeners **11.50** The IT Crowd **12.55 Film:** The Sitter (2011) **2.30** How I Met Your Mother

Film4
1.00 Kiki's Delivery Service (1989) **3.10** Porridge (1979) **5.00** The Dark Crystal (1982) **6.50** The Three Musketeers (2011) **9.00** '71 (2014) **10.55** An Officer and a Gentleman (1982) **1.25** Summer in February (2013) **3.50** Close

star extra TRAVEL London Theatre Breaks

Choose your show, price band and how you want to travel*

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days
Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £169.95
Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels (hotel supplements may apply) and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £239.95
This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days
Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £149.95
Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £159.95
Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel plus full English breakfast.

Pick-up points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single rooms subject to availability – supplements apply.*

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Lucky Christmas, Channel 5, 3.45pm
A single mother struggling to make ends meet thinks her problems are solved when she wins the lottery, only to lose the ticket before she can claim the money. A greedy construction worker offers to help her get it back in exchange for a share of the winnings, only to fall for her while they search for it. Romantic drama, with Elizabeth Berkley. (2011)

TUESDAY
A Bride for Christmas, Channel 5, 3.45pm
A woman swears off serious relationships after breaking off her third failed engagement, only to run into a man who seems perfect for her a month before Christmas. However, she does not realise he has made a bet with his friends that he can persuade a woman to marry him before the holiday begins. Romantic drama, with Arielle Kebbel. (2012)

300, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

WEDNESDAY
Holiday Help, Channel 5, 3.50pm
A single mother is broke and desperate to get a job so she make her daughter's Christmas a happy one. With the help of an angel, she gets a position at a department store and meets the love of her life. Festive romantic drama, starring Alicia Witt. (2014)

THURSDAY
The Christmas Shepherd, Channel 5, 3.45pm
A widow is devastated when the German shepherd that is her only companion runs away. The dog ends up at an animal sanctuary, and is adopted by the kindly owner and his daughter. When the original owner finally tracks it down, she faces a hard choice between remaining alone and separating the animal from its newfound happiness. Drama, starring Teri Polo and Jordyn Ashley Olson. (2014)

FRIDAY
300, ITV, 10.40pm
Leonidas, fearless king of Sparta, leads 300 of his finest warriors into battle against the invading armies of the ruler of the Persian empire. As the outnumbered Spartans fight for their country, his queen, Gorgo, tries to rally support for her husband at home. Fantasy action adventure, starring Gerard Butler. (2006)

Will Variety prove to be the spice of life?

It's been going since 1912, and even its name harks back to an earlier age of entertainment, but never let it be said that the Royal Variety Performance doesn't move with the times.

This year, the show boasts its youngest ever host, comedian Jack Whitehall, who at 27 is no one's idea of a grizzled showbiz veteran.

However, that doesn't mean he doesn't have the experience to helm such an occasion – he's become something of a Royal Variety regular.

He says: "Having been lucky enough to perform for Prince Charles and Prince William in previous years, I look forward to the opportunity of sailing a little too close to the wind in the presence of Prince Harry this time round."

He added: "It's my third time on the show and I still am yet to perform in front of The Queen, she must be really desperate not to see my act."

In addition to amusing the royals, Whitehall has also co-written and starred in the sitcom Bad Education, which follows teacher Alfie Wickers.

However, tonight, the comedian's own ability to keep excitable teenagers in check may be put to the test, as there's at least one act on the bill who should get the younger audience members screaming.

They may have recently announced their plans to take an extended break, but all-conquering boy band One Direction are still taking to the stage at the Royal Variety Performance, and they'll be joined by their fellow X Factor graduates Little Mix.

But while there's definitely a youthful element to tonight's proceedings, older viewers needn't worry that the organisers have instituted a Logan's Run-style policy of only booking the under-thirties. As ever, the show offers something for everyone.

If the members of One Direction and Little Mix want advice on how to make sure they are still being invited back to the Royal Variety Performance in 30 years time, they could always ask Elton John, who is also on the bill.

Speaking of music survivors, there's also a rare appearance from Jeff Lynne's ELO. Other music stars include pop princess and honorary national treasure Kylie Minogue, alongside Ricky Martin, the Corrs, The Killers frontman Brandon Flowers, Josh Groban and American country singer Kacey Musgraves.

If you prefer your songs with added jazz hands, there'll also be show tunes from the cast of Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's multi-award winning musical Mary Poppins, and British soul sensation Beverly Knight performs a number from the record-breaking musical Cats.

There's comedy from Chris Ramsey, Romesh Ranganathan and Matt Forde, who provides a political round-up of the year (although given that the show was actually recorded on November 13, there may be some recent events missing).

Cirque Du Soleil provide an spectacular acrobatic act, the cast of Olivier Award 2015 winners The Play That Goes Wrong will be hoping everything goes right, and, in what is becoming a new Royal Variety tradition, there's also an appearance by this year's Britain's Got Talent victors, Jules, Matisse and Friends.

The Royal Variety Performance 2015, Tuesday, ITV, 7.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Las Vegas with Trevor McDonald
ITV, 9pm
According to the popular slogan ëwhat Happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas'. That might work for tourists who are visiting for a wild weekend, but what about the people who actually live and work there? Trevor McDonald is about to find out as he looks beyond the casinos and bright lights to learn the truth about life in ëSin City'. Among the people he meets is a former high-class call girl, who at the height of her career was earning $2million a year, and now runs a safe house for prostitutes who are trying to escape the clutches of violent pimps. Meanwhile bail bondsman Jon talks about his dangerous line of work, and the temptations of all those casino. Trevor also meets one of the city's most famous residents, former World Heavyweight Champion Mike Tyson, who discusses his experiences of winning and losing big, and reveals why he's now unlikely to be found on the city's famous Strip.

TUESDAY
8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Christmas Special
Channel 4, 9pm
Jimmy Carr hosts a festive edition of the comedy panel show's version of the popular and long-running words-and-numbers quiz. Regular team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson are joined by guests Johnny Vegas and Katherine Ryan to provide more comic innuendos, festive surprises and laughs aplenty. Countdown's resident lexicographer Susie Dent takes her usual place in Dictionary Corner with David O'Doherty, while mathematics whizz Rachel Riley is on hand to provide the letters and numbers.

WEDNESDAY
Prey
ITV, 9pm
Last year, this crime drama debuted with an engrossing story starring John Simm as a detective on the run after being framed for his wife's murder. Now it's his Life On Mars co-star Philip Glenister who takes the lead, playing prison officer David Murdoch. While escorting a female prisoner to hospital, his life spirals out of control. David receives a mysterious phone call in which the life of his heavily pregnant daughter is threatened, and must find a way to protect her – even if it means putting his own existence in jeopardy. Meanwhile, DS Susan Reinhardt is charged with finding him – and working out why David is acting so out of character. Rosie Cavaliero, Sammy Winward and MyAnna Buring co-star.

BBC Music Awards, Thursday, BBC1, 8pm

THURSDAY
BBC Music Awards
BBC1, 8pm
Chris Evans and Fearne Cotton host the second BBC Music Awards, live from Birmingham's Genting Arena, celebrating a year of musical achievement. Performers include One Direction, Ellie Goulding, Jess Glynne, Little Mix, Hozier, Mumford & Sons and Omi. Artist-producer Jack Garratt is crowned BBC Introducing Artist of the Year and throughout the evening, four other awards will be presented.

FRIDAY
Citizen Khan
BBC1, 8.30pm
Mr Khan enters the Great Sparkhill Bake Off, intent on scooping top honours with his version of the lemon drizzle inside-out cake. Meanwhile, storm clouds gather on the domestic front as Mrs Khan worries that Alia's new boyfriend sounds too rough and needs a good talking to - roping her husband and son-in-law Amjad in to do her bidding. She also makes a discovery that forces Mr Khan to quiz Alia about every father's worst nightmare.

Piers Morgan's Life Stories
ITV, 9pm
Timothy West joins the host to look back on a five-decade career as one of Britain's best-loved actors. The former EastEnders star speaks candidly about his 52-year marriage to Fawlty Towers actress Prunella Scales, and the impact of her battle with dementia on their lives. He also reveals the trauma of his first wife's mental health problems, and how he finally made peace with his daughter after several years of estrangement. On a lighter note, Timothy also reflects on his role at the wedding of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker-Bowles, and the time he toured the set of Coronation Street – disguised as former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev.

Explore your world with
star extra TRAVEL

See us online at:
www.expressandstar.com/starextratravel

UK trips, Europe by coach, air and Eurostar, plus holidays further afield.

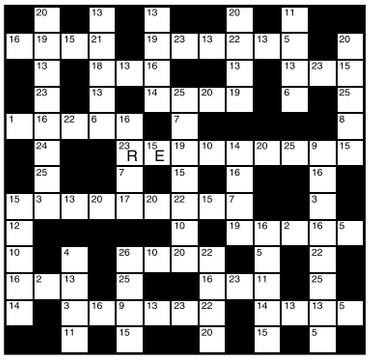
Brought to you by the
Express & Star

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, December 3, 2015

BRAIN GYM No.354

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15 E
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23 R
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
K	U	W	V	X	R	C	Q	D	O	I	G	F
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
B	P	M	E	L	S	Z	A	N	J	T	H	Y

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

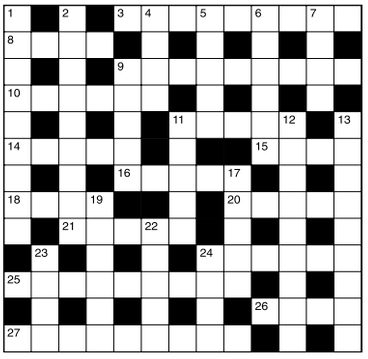
Cryptic Clues:

Across

3. Guidance provided by the board? (9)
8. Breed that may be rare (4)
9. It had short popularity in the fashion-world! (4-5)
10. Emotion shown by love in little ways (6)
11. In a way age is some protection (5)
14. They join the course (5)
15. Out of gear! (4)
16. Kind of support a painter may need (5)
18. Puts out a seat and has a meal (4)
20. What could be finer to imply? (5)
21. Noted thing to climb (5)
24. More than a capital district (6)
25. Diagrammatic form of catechism (9)
26. A whole chapter may be devoted to him (4)
27. Agreed on a fresh kind of drink (9)

Down

1. Screw-driver (9)
2. They may click at dances (9)
4. Is first and last a goddess (4)
5. Pick the literary section (5)
6. Dupe to act as an usher (4,2)
7. Involved in a row, Rosa is upset (4)
9. Small creature with nothing to think about (5)
11. Set sail on Eastern passage (5)
12. Presumably he looks forward to getting on the board (4-5)
13. The object wasn't far from causing an accident (4,5)
17. Flower I ring up about (5)
19. Hide or show (6)
22. Set out for a holiday (5)
23. Not a sign of a fatal wound! (4)
24. This piper has a youthful following (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

3. Theorise (9)
8. Leave out (4)
9. Burial (9)
10. Steps (6)
11. Drift (5)
14. Mar (5)
15. Period (4)
16. Indiscretion (5)
18. Repair (4)
20. Scoundrel (5)
21. Postpone (5)
24. Impressive (6)
25. Digger (9)
26. Incline (4)
27. Assuredness (9)

Down

1. Odious (9)
2. Narrow-minded (9)
4. Writes (4)
5. Unobstructed (5)
6. Dirge (6)
7. Melody (4)
9. Pastoral poem (5)
11. Come to point (5)
12. Camouflaged (9)
13. Cleansing (9)
17. Mistake (5)
19. Go away (6)
22. Decree (5)
23. Spindle (4)
24. Humour (4)

Sudoku

		7				8		6
	6			2	4	5		
3		5			9			
		4		7	6		8	
	5						7	
		6	8	1		4		
6	7		4					8
		9	2			7	6	
1		3			7	9		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	8	9	4	1	3	6	5	7
7	4	1	5	6	9	2	8	3
5	3	6	7	8	2	4	1	9
3	1	5	6	9	7	8	2	4
4	6	2	8	3	5	7	9	1
9	7	8	1	2	4	3	6	5
8	5	4	2	7	1	9	3	6
1	2	3	9	4	6	5	7	8
6	9	7	3	5	8	1	4	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Dock; 3 Remember; 8 Cole; 9 Speaking; 11 Baby-carriage; 13 Landor; 14 Strain; 17 Call for order; 20 Adroitly; 21 Stop; 22 Treasure; 23 Arid. Down: 1 Duckbill; 2 Caliban; 4 Export; 5 Emaciation; 6 Being; 7 Rags; 10 School ties; 12 Intrepid; 15 Auditor; 16 Bowler; 18 Agree; 19 Part. QUICK - Across: 1 Cede; 3 Precious; 8 Ness; 9 Spinster; 11 Exasperation; 13 Spread; 14 Starve; 17 Indisputable; 20 Combined; 21 Tell; 22 Endanger; 23 Type. Down: 1 Converse; 2 Despair; 4 Report; 5 Constitute; 6 Outdo; 7 Sure; 10 Apparition; 12 Reveille; 15 Robbery; 16 Sphere; 18 Nomad; 19 Acme.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. The flag of which American state bears the legend 'December 7, 1787'?
2. In which year did Jamaica become independent?
3. What was the middle name of inventor Thomas Edison?
4. What does the French expression 'hors de combat' mean?
5. Which country did Margaret, Maid of Norway, rule between 1286 and 1290?
6. Who was the first Democrat American president?
7. In the Bible, who was the wife of Ahab?
8. What nationality is author Ngugi wa Thiong'o?
9. Which bird's Latin name is Passer domesticus?
10. In which year of the 1970s was the Suez Canal reopened?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 A variety of fennel; 2 Hamilton; 3 International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; 4 Sewing machine; 5 Danzig; 6 Dutch (koolsla); 7 A vent in or near a volcano; 8 Walter Gropius; 9 1975; 10 Toronto.

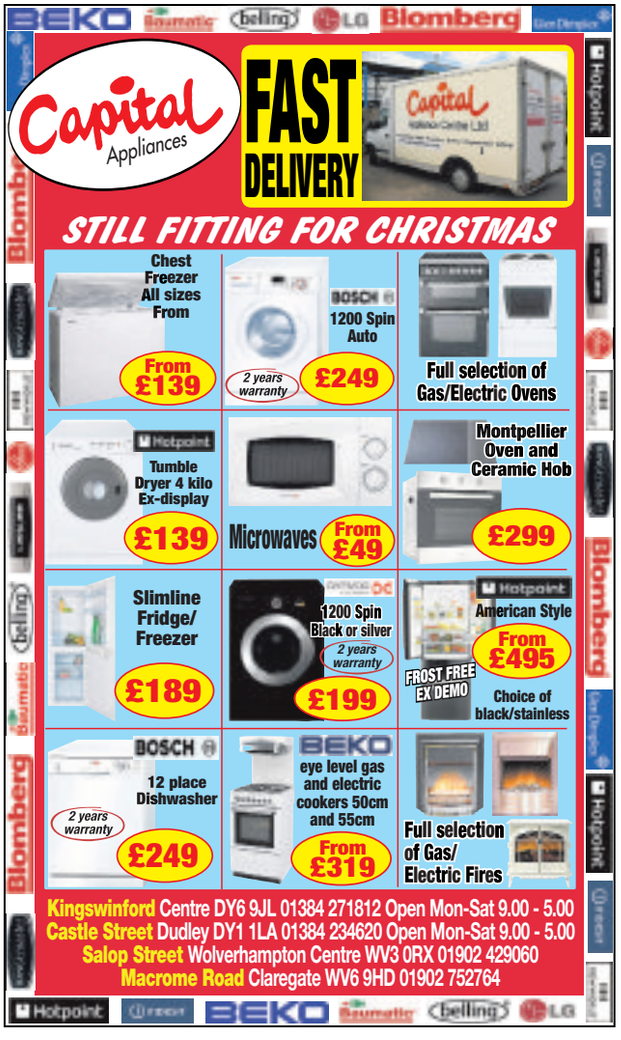
Niner: CONJUGATE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

57828 gives cloth,
32192 gives more cloth,
64552 gives silk net.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



Final whistle

THE ONLY READ FOR REAL FANS EVERY MONDAY

If you want the definitive read on the weekend football action there is only one place to go – Final whistle supplement in the Express & Star.
Packed with match reports, infographics and player reaction, Final whistle offers the best football coverage around. With expert analysis from star pundits like Kevin Phillips, as well as graphics of the key moments, tables and stats, make sure you get your copy.
A real football read for real football fans.

TO ADVERTISE IN FINAL WHISTLE CALL OUR EXPERIENCED SALES TEAM ON 01902 31 31 31

An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star

Delivering luxury of time

By James Parker

Volvo Cars' ongoing research into autonomous driving has confirmed what we all know – that the daily commute is taking the joy out of driving. It is during the commute and on long motorway trips that people are most willing to delegate the act of driving to their car.

With this in mind, Volvo has developed Concept 26, named to reflect the average daily commute to work of 26 minutes* – time that could be spent doing something more meaningful than sitting in stop-start traffic. Volvo has set out to bring choice and freedom back to the driver; to enjoy the driving experience when they want to, or to delegate driving to the car when they want to do something else.

"It's all about people. Our research clearly shows that some people will want to use their commuting time creatively when they have full autonomous drive available, while others will want to just sit back and relax, watch online media or listen to music. Autonomous drive will make all of this possible. This is what Concept 26 has captured by reimagining the entire car experience," said Robin Page, vice president of interior design at Volvo Cars.

Concept 26 is based around an all-new patented seat design that actively cradles the driver during the transformation phase into one of the three modes: Drive, Create or Relax. With these three modes the concept creates a new autonomous drive innovation platform that can adapt to new needs and technologies over time.

When the driver wishes to delegate driving to the car, the steering wheel retracts, the seat reclines and a large display emerges from the dashboard allowing the driver to enjoy the time spent in the car as they like. Concept 26 embraces the need for radical change of the basic design of car interiors and provides a space that can be used as the driver/passenger wishes.

Concept 26 opens up a new paradigm of possibilities in the car – from entertainment to service provision and beyond, using the technology that is now a natural part of our everyday lives. It also signals the huge potential for new business opportunities and high-tech collaborations that autonomous drive will bring.

"We have gone to great lengths to understand the challenges and opportunities that autonomous cars will bring to people in coming years, and our flexible approach to engineering and design, enabled by our new Scalable Product Architecture, means that we can readily bring this from concept to reality," said Dr Peter Mertens, senior vice president research and development at Volvo Car Group.

'We have gone to great lengths to understand the challenges and opportunities that autonomous cars will bring to people in coming years.'

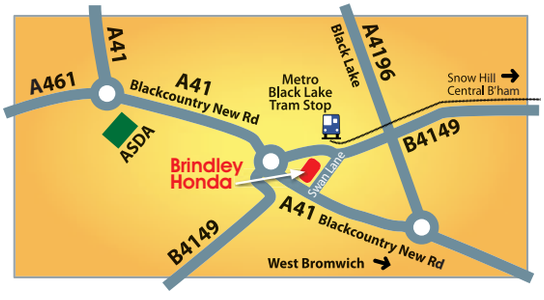
Volvo Cars' ongoing Drive Me research project, which will see an extended fleet of fully autonomous cars driving real customers on the roads of Gothenburg, Sweden, in 2017 is further proof that Volvo is a leader in autonomous drive technology, building firmly on its foundation of safety.

"Volvo Cars is among the first to address the subject of self-driving cars and liability. We firmly believe that car makers should take full responsibility for the actions of the car when it is driving in full autonomous mode. If a manufacturer does not accept liability, it clearly implies that they are not confident about their autonomous drive technology," said Dr Peter Mertens.

*Based on research of the average commute time in the United States

Brindley Honda Halesowen
have moved to West Bromwich

HONDA
The Power of Dreams



Millennium Park, Swan Lane, West Bromwich B70 0NR
Tel: 0121 629 0990

Nothing else has changed though!

All the staff are now in their new positions at our other sites.

So be it Sales, Service or MOT you require – you're still in the very capable hands of familiar staff with many years of Honda expertise.

We are also offering an extensive range of courtesy cars or our free pick-up and drop-off facility when your car is having its service.

For everything Honda call Brindley today.
Tel: 0121 629 0990. Web: brindley.co.uk/honda

Branches also at Cannock and Wolverhampton

Walsall Road
Cannock
WS11 0JP
Tel: 01543 406609

BRINDLEY
Garages Group
Keeping the West Midlands motoring since 1931.

West Street
off Stafford Road
Wolverhampton WV10 6HT
Tel: 01902 690601

Watershed moment in hydrogen fuel-cell car

By Matt Kimberley

Toyota's Mirai is the first fuel-cell vehicle to be sold in the UK, but is it the beginning of a revolution?

So what's new? Everything, but not as much as you'd think. The Mirai is one of the first production hydrogen vehicles, so it's part of a huge watershed moment, but ultimately it's a normal car with fuel contained in tanks and an electric hybrid system that sends power to the front wheels. A lot like a Prius, only running on something a lot cleaner.

The dashboard and centre console are futuristic enough without being scary, and there are familiar touches like Toyota's nifty little automatic gear lever sticking up near the steering wheel. You'll find a whole range of drivetrain-related displays that can tell you what's going on underneath you, which is cool. Again, a lot like the Prius.

Aerodynamics are paramount for the Mirai, hence the unusual styling that enhances both the cooling systems and the drag coefficient; how smoothly the car cuts through the air. The underneath is completely flat, for starters, which can only be done because there are no hot gases around the engine bay.

It would take a brave person to call it pretty, but the functionality within its lines holds the right kind of appeal for early adopters and the eco-minded, both of whom will want to be seen to be driving such a revolutionary concept. Driving a car but emitting nothing but water vapour is something to be proud of.

There's a 361-litre saloon boot, which is good enough for most needs.

You can forget that trip to the oak furniture place, but everyday luggage will be fine. There's loads of rear legroom for average-height adults and despite the Mirai's slender, gap-threading footprint on the road, it feels wide inside thanks to liberally-applied horizontal lines across the dashboard.

While a 300-mile real-world range is easy, the obvious limiting factor here is the current availability of hydrogen filling stations. There, err, aren't many. Yet. Watch this space.

Supreme quietness is what greets you inside the Mirai. The chief engineer describes difficulties in controlling road noise in such a silent car, but he's being modest. Squeeze the throttle hard and you'll hear the fake whirring noise added to let owners feel a more natural sensation of acceleration – and likewise in reverse when you lift off the right-hand pedal.

Fantastically usable torque from the hydrogen-electric drivetrain makes the Toyota a dream to drive around town and the suburbs. It gets up to speed with less fuss than a dinner at Downton. The ride is impeccable, too; settled and comfortable. It makes you wonder why all cars aren't like this. Three driving modes allow you to bias the system towards the electric motor, a calculated mix of that and the hydrogen, or towards maximum output.

Outward visibility is great, giving clear views of approaching traffic at roundabouts. Everything within touching distance feels high-quality, too, including the very comfortable eight-way electrically adjustable front seats.

Here's the rub: the Mirai costs £66,000 on the road, or £750 per month on an all-inclusive leasing deal that covers servicing, tyres and the like. You get an awful lot of day-brighteners for that, like heated seats (all round), heated steering wheel and even heated windscreen wipers. There's no denying that this will be a deeply lovely car to own or lease, but it's a bit rich for most people.

Toyota is targeting the Mirai partly at wealthy early-adopters who live near refuelling stations. But greater uptake is expected among companies looking to reduce their carbon footprint – and to be seen doing it.

Transport for London is already a customer, and large carbon-sensitive corporations could well join in with a couple of cars for the right executives.

This car summed up in a single word: Serene.

If this car was an: alien race it would come in peace, bringing chocolate biscuits and hugs for all.

TESTED

Toyota Mirai, from £66,000

Engine: 2.0-litre turbocharged petrol producing 152bhp and 247lb/ft

Transmission: Single-speed automatic driving the front wheels

Performance: Top speed 111mph, 0-62mph in 9.6 seconds

Economy: 1.23kg per 100 miles combined

Emissions: Water vapour

OakGarage.co.uk

Specialists In One Owner, Low Mileage, Full Service History, Ex Motability Vehicles

Our Low Mileage Selection

62	Corsa 1.4 SE Auto Yellow Only 1800 Miles	£7,995
62	Chevrolet Orlando 1.8 LT Auto Red Only 3000 Miles	£9,495
62	Focus 1.6 Zetec Auto Est Blue Only 4000 Miles	£9,695
61	207 1.6 Allure Auto Est Black Only 6000 Miles	£6,995
14	Agila 1.2 SE Black Only 6000 Miles	£6,995
12	Ka 1.2 Edge Red Only 7000 Miles	£5,295
62	Scenic 1.5 DCI Dyn Tomtom Blue Only 10000 Miles	£9,995
12	308 1.6 Access Auto Blue Only 10000 Miles	£6,295
14	VW Golf 2.0 TSI R DSG Blue Only 12000 Miles	£27,995
62	Juke 1.6 Tekna Auto Black Only 12000 Miles	£11,495
62	Meriva 1.4 SE Grey Only 12000 Miles	£7,695
62	C4 1.6 HDI VTR+ Red Only 12000 Miles	£7,995
62	Fiesta 1.25 Zetec Blue Only 13000 Miles	£7,995
12	Kia Venga 1.6 2 Auto Silver Only 14000 Miles	£7,795
62	308 1.6 HDI Active Silver Only 15000 Miles	£7,995
62	Chevrolet Orlando 1.8 LT Aut Grey Only 17000 Miles	£8,495
62	3008 1.6 HDI Active 2 Black Only 17000 Miles	£8,995
12	Berlingo 1.6 HDI VTR+ EGS6 Grey Only 17000 Miles	£7,995
62	Note 1.6 N-Tec+ Auto Blue Only 17000 Miles	£7,295
62	Note 1.6 N-Tec+ Auto Caffe Latte Only 17000 Miles	£7,495

Citroen

59	C1 1.0 VTR Black 44k	£3,995
60	C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI VTR+ Red 21k	£6,995
12	C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI VTR+ Beige 31k	£6,995
62	C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI VTR+ Red 34k	£6,995
63	C3 Picasso 1.6 Exclusive EGS6 Grey 25k	£8,995
12	DS3 1.6 D Style Auto White 34k	£7,995

Ford

58	Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 3dr Silver 75k	£4,495
59	Fusion 1.4 Style + Silver 43k	£3,995
62	Focus 1.6 TDCI Titanium Black 29k	£9,695

Nissan

62	Micra 1.2 Acenta Auto Blue 22k	£6,995
62	Note 1.6 N-Tec+ Auto Silver 26k	£7,495
62	Note 1.6 N-Tec+ Auto Gun Metal 29k	£7,295
57	Note 1.6 Tekna Orange 44k	£3,795
62	Juke 1.5 DCI Acenta Black 20k	£10,495
12	Juke 1.6 Acenta Red 25k	£8,995

Vauxhall

62	Corsa 1.4 SE Blue 24k	£6,995
12	Meriva 1.4 SE Blue 20k	£7,995
60	Meriva 1.7 CDTI Exclusiv Auto With Wheelchair Topbox	£6,995
62	Meriva 1.7 CDTI Exclusiv Brown 37k	£6,795
56	Meriva 1.7 CDTI Design Blue 75k	£2,795
61	Insignia 2.0 CDTI SRI 160 Nav Silver 25k	£9,295
12	Antara 2.2 CDTI Exc 163 Auto Black 23k	£10,995

Other

12	Honda Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Red 20k	£7,995
06	MG ZT 2.0 CDTI 135 4dr Blue 72k	£2,495
60	Mini 1.6 Cooper White 35k	£7,495
56	Mini Cooper 1.6 Silver 56k	£4,495
59	Perodua MYVI 1.3 SXI 5dr Silver 26k	£2,995
62	Peugeot 3008 1.6 HDI Active 2 Shark Grey 44k	£8,795
12	Renault Clio 1.2 Dyn Tomtom 3dr Silver 32k	£4,995
60	Renault Scenic 1.5 DCI Priv TomTom Beige 23k	£7,495
07	Renault Scenic 1.6 Dynamique Gold 37k	£2,995
62	VW Polo 1.2 TDI Match Grey	£6,995
09	VW EOS 1.4 TSI Convertable Silver 58k	£6,295
55	VW Passat 1.9 TDI S 105 4dr Blue 97k	£2,995

Only 500 Yards From Merry Hill Shopping Centre:

Honda Civic 1.4 SE Climate Control Alloy Wheels Now Only £7995

Clio 1.2 Dynamique Sat Nav ,Bluetooth Leather Trim Air Con ,Alloys Now Only £4995

All Motability Vehicles are:

* One Owner From New
* Full Main Dealer Service History
* Guaranteed Low Mileage
* 1-3 Years Old
* 1200 Cars Available Online

Another 100 Low Mileage Cars Available Soon See Details At:

www.oakgarage.co.uk

Unit 1 , Sterling Park, Brierley Hill Dy5 1TB

Tel: 01384 75097

Opening Times: Mon-Thu: 9-6, Fri-Sat: 9-5, Sun: 11-4

Kadjar wins green award

Only two months after launching in the UK, the all-new Renault Kadjar is already picking up silverware, after collecting Best Crossover at the Next Green Car Awards.

The brand-new family-sized crossover won the environmental prize after overcoming opposition from rivals including the Fiat 500X 1.6 MultiJet II, Honda HR-V 1.6 i-DTEC and Mazda CX-3 1.5 Skyactiv-D. Kadjar was praised by judges thanks to its impressively low emissions of just 99g/km of CO2 – joint best-in-class – and fuel economy of up to 74.3mpg on the combined cycle (NEDC).

Selection into the awards is driven by Next Green Car's unique NGC Rating which rates the environmental impact of all new cars on the market. This impact is considered alongside other factors including capability, suitability for purpose, impact on its sector and value for money to decide which models are shortlisted for an award.

Commenting on their decision to award the Renault Kadjar, the judges from Next Green Car said: "While it's taken some time for a new King of the Crossovers to arrive, Renault's All-New Kadjar easily takes the title. Efficient, comfortable, spacious and good value for money, the Kadjar raises the bar in the crossover segment."

Ken Ramirez, managing director, Renault UK said, "We're delighted that the judges from Next Green Car have chosen the All-New Kadjar as their Best Crossover, recognising our newest addition to the Renault family of crossovers, not only for its environmental credentials, but also for its practicality, comfort and value for money too."

Since it arrived in the UK in September, Kadjar has strengthened Renault's presence in the crossover market – building on the success of its compact crossover sibling, the Captur. It is already proving popular with the British car buyers thanks to its striking design, efficient powertrains, spacious interior, high levels of standard specification, best-in-class residual values and five-star Euro NCAP rating.

Kadjar is available with two diesel and one petrol, efficient yet powerful, engines in manual or automatic with two- or four-wheel drive and four trim levels. It is priced from £17,995 with a four-year warranty and Renault Assistance package as standard.

Halesowen Autos

Quality Used Cars At Great Prices

11/60 Mercedes C Class C180 CGI Blue EFFICIENCY Sport
4dr Tip-Automatic, 53k, Silver, Alloys, Half Leather, CD, Climate, E/Windows
£12495 /£57 Per Week

06/56 Jaguar XJ Sovereign 2.7 TDVI Diesel Automatic
60k, Silver, Alloys, Premium Cream Leather, Sat-Nav, Top Spec - Every Extra
£9995 / £51 Per Week

06/06 Mercedes CLS CLS320 CDI
Diesel 4dr Tip Automatic 75k, Silver, Black Leather, Alloys, Sat-Nav, Climate Control
£9495 / £49 Per Week

07/07 Honda CR-V 2.2 i-CTDi Diesel ES
5dr 4WD, 64k, Beige, Alloys, Climate Control, CD Player
£7795 / £39 Per Week

09/09 Vauxhall insignia 2.0 Elite Turbo Estate
Automatic 56k, Sage Metallic, Alloys, Cream Leather, Climate Control, E/Windows
£6995 / £36 Per Week

07/57 Jaguar S-Type 2.7D V6 Diesel SE
4dr Auto, 79k, Grey, Alloys, Savannah Leather, Heated Seats, Sat-Nav, Climate, CD Player, E/windows
£6995 / £36 Per Week

08/08 Jaguar X-Type 2.2D S Diesel
4dr Automatic, 59k, Blue, Alloys, Half Cream Leather, Air Con, CD, E/windows
£6995 / £36 Per Week

07/07 Volvo V50 2.5 SE Lux D5 Estate Automatic
67k, Blue Metallic, Alloys, Grey Leather, CD, Climate Control, E/Windows
£6495 / £34 Per Week

09/09 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec
3dr, ONLY 26k MILES, Red Metallic, Alloys, Air con, CD, Heated ft screen
£6295 / £33 Per Week

09/09 Citroen Berlingo Multispace XTR 1.6 HDI Diesel
61k, Silver, Air Con, CD, E/Windows
£5495 / £27 Per Week

11/60 Vauxhall Meriva Exclusive 1.4 Turbo
39k, Silver, Alloys, Air Con, CD Player, E/Windows
£5495 / £26 Per Week

12/62 Citroen C3 Picasso VTR Plus 1.6 HDI Diesel
ONLY £30 ROAD TAX 112k, Red, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows
£4995 / £24 Per Week

05/55 Vauxhall Zafira 1.9 CDTi Club Diesel [120]
5dr 7 Seater, 50k miles, White, Alloys, Air Con, CD Player
£4495 / £23 Per Week

2004/54 Toyota Rav 4 2.0 XT4
5dr *ONE OWNER plus supplying dealer*, 93k, Silver, Alloys, Black Leather, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, F5H
£3995 / £19 Per Week

07/57 Ford Fusion 1.4 Style Climate
51k, Blue, *LOW INSURANCE* Air Con, CD, Climate Pack
£3695 / £19 Per Week

2005/05 Nissan X-Trail 2.2 DCi 136 SVE Diesel
5dr, 125k, Silver, Alloys, Black Leather, Sat-Nav, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, F5H
£3495 / £17 Per Week

10/10 Chevrolet Spark 1.0 Plus
43k, Silver, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, *Only £30 Road Tax*
£3495 / £17 Per Week

2002/02 Smart City-Cabriolet Passion Softtouch
2dr Automatic, 44k, Colourwash Yellow, Alloys, Full Leather, Air Con, CD
£2195 / £25 Per Week

Finance example: 10/10 Chevrolet Spark 1.0 plus, Cash Price £3495, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £3195, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% Apr, 60 Payments of £69.90 (£16.13 per week) Total amount payable £4793.44 (Includes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

FINANCE AVAILABLE • PART EXCHANGE
WARRANTIES AVAILABLE • WE BUY CARS

1 CROSS STREET, HALESOWEN B63 4RT
Tel: 0121 501 3840
www.halesowenautos.co.uk

Express & Star

VIRTUAL MOTORSHOW

REVIEW YOUR NEW CAR BY VIDEO BEFORE YOU TEST DRIVE!

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST MANUFACTURER & DEALER OFFERS BY VISITING OUR SHOW...

DRIVING EXPERIENCE - COST OF OWNERSHIP - DESIGN & BUILD - RANGE

> VIDEO REVIEWS > DEALERSHIP INFORMATION

expressandstar.com/drivetime

Local Specialists

Alarms

METRO ALARMS AND SECURITY
Burglar Alarm Repairs
Alarms from £249
Alarms Served from £30.00
- Home Alarm Installation
- Upgrades Close Circuit TV
- 30 years Experience

NEW!! Security Cameras Fitted for you to view via your Smart Phone! Recorded 24 hours!
Free Quotes & Advice
01384 350 687
07904 317 150
(anytime)
www.metro-alarms.co.uk

Blinds & Curtains

Blinds4Less
Leaving a good impression!
Choose From a fantastic range!
-Pleated -Venetians
-Romans -Curtains
-Verticals -Awnings
-Rollers -Shutters
New 3 Year Guarantee on Blinds and up to 10 Year Guarantee on Shutters
Give us a try before you buy!
Contact us on 01384 886162 and 07989 588728
Blinds4lessdirect.com

Driveways & Patios

Trent Driveway Specialists
- FENCING
- TURFING
- LANDSCAPING
- BLOCK PAVING
- TARMACADAM
- DRAINAGE SYSTEMS
- AGGREGATES AND CHIPPINGS
- HIGH PRESSURE CLEANING

MINI DIGGER AND DRIVER HIRE SERVICE
FREE WRITTEN QUOTATION
Tel:01384 466 950
Mob: 07708 332 005
Checkatrade.com
www.trentlandscapes.co.uk

Cressage Paving
Specialists in:
Block Paving, Tarmacing, Landscaping, Gravelling, Patios, Forecourts, Fencing and Driveways
All Groundwork undertaken
FREE WRITTEN QUOTATION
Mini Digger & Driver available
01384 944032
Mob: 07879 073702
www.cressage-group.co.uk

Electricians

J S QUALITY ELECTRICAL SERVICES LTD
Fuseboard upgrades / complete rewires / security alarms and lighting / fault finding and repairs / shower replacements and more
Domestic / Industrial / Commercial work undertaken
Free quotations available Over 20 years' experience
Contact now:
0121 531 6884 / 07753 393562
www.jsqualityelectrical.co.uk
j.selectricalservices@hotmail.co.uk
Winter Deals now on - call for more information
CERTIFICATIONS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE

Gardening

ROWAN TREE & GARDEN SERVICES LTD
*Tree Surgeon Specialist *Stump Grinding/Root Removal
*Hedges Pruned/Shaped *Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes
*Fencing *Turfing *Concreting *Driveways & Patios
*Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation Quotation
24/7 365 emergency callout service
01384 213644 or 07733 226568
AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor, N.P.T.C. qualified, Public Liability Insurance (£5 million) All staff C.R.B. Certified
PART OF THE ROWAN GROUP OF COMPANIES

Building and Landscaping

APOLLO G.C.L.
GROUNDWORKS • CIVILS • LANDSCAPE
APOLLO G.C.L Are accredited with both Construction Line and CHAS. With a client satisfaction rating of 9.8 and a client base which includes Amazon UK and Broxap.
We always strive to deliver customer satisfaction.
So, call us for a free estimate if you require, groundworks, drainage, blockwork, brickwork, housing or office extensions, internal refurbishment or landscaping.
0800 043 4455

Double Glazing

Misted Sealed Units?
Black Country Glazing
Contact US for a FREE quote!
Manufacturers & Installers of windows, doors & conservatories
'A' Rated Windows as Standard
10 YEAR GUARANTEE
"Energy efficient windows that won't cost the earth"
Station Street, Cradley Heath, B64 6AJ
Est 1987
01384 566100
www.blackcountryglazing.com
FENSA

Fascias Soffits & Guttering

Roberts Guttering Services
20% Discount
Local Specialists
Dry Verge Units Fitted
For All aspects of cleaning & repair call Robert for a FREE quote on
07767869792
We Fit UPVC Soffits & Fascias

Local Specialists
Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesman to deal with your needs and requirements.

Health & Beauty

HEALTH & WELL-BEING CLINIC
- All Beauty Treatments Available
- Fantastic Offers • Deep Tissue Massage £35.00
- Anti-Aging Non Surgical Collagen Facial
- Also Home Visits

Book your Free consultation today
HAGLEY ROAD LOCATION
0743 7569187

Builders

C ETHERIDGE BUILDING SERVICES
- Extensions
- Alterations
- Roofing
- Landscaping
- Block paving
- General property maintenance.

Over 35yrs experience
For a FREE quote call Chris
01384 635627
07989 738732

Carpentry

JUST DOORS
All Types of Wooden Doors Supplied & Fitted
Internal & External
All Aspects of Carepntry & Garden Work
Over 40 Years Experience Free Quotes
07836 702482

Fencing

Fencing & Gates
All Garden Work Undertaken
• Slabbing • Block Paving • Tree Felling
• Turfing • Garden Clearance
NO JOB TOO SMALL
Manufacturers of all Concrete Products eg. Concrete Posts, Gravel Boards
All work guaranteed Insurance work undertaken
Over 15 years experience (Public liability covered)
Call Steve on
01384 242891 or 07970 300586

Locksmiths

UPVC LOCK PROBLEMS?
Call Tony Lane
07540 380140 or 01384 354344

Decorating

FREDEN DECOR
Do You Need A Plasterer, Painter or Decorator?
TELEPHONE FRED FOR A RELIABLE AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
Fully insured
Free quotes and advice on:
07904 441412 - DAYTIME
01384 572371 - AFTER 6PM

Electricians

MB electric
All domestic and commercial electrical works undertaken
Home rewiring from £800
For a high quality local service call :
01384 660398
07939 503905
mbelectric.co.uk

Electricians

BRADLEY ELECTRICAL & MAINTENANCE
Est 1987
All electrical work undertaken
Fully qualified & insured
Installation Condition Reports
No job too small
★ FREE ESTIMATES ★
Electrical Safety Register
ELECSA ECA
Call Paul 01384 344589 or 07812 435833
www.bradleyelectrical.net

Flooring

UNEVEN FLOOR?
FLOORS MADE FLAT AND SMOOTH
REPAIRS & IMPROVEMENTS TO TIMBER AND SOLID FLOORS
FLOORS PREPARED READY FOR ANY FLOOR COVERING!
FREE ESTIMATES AND ADVICE
NO JOB TOO SMALL
PHONE MARK
07770 686444

Pets Corner

POSHKUTZ
4 PETS WHO KNOW A GOOD THING!
SPECIAL EVENT
14TH-24TH DECEMBER
SPECIAL PAMPER FORTNIGHT
PRICES FROM AS LITTLE AS £15.00!
FREE PICK UP & DROP OFF
CALL GARY: 01384 891008/ 07557 648100
217 HIGH STREET, LYE, DY9 8JX
WWW.POSHKUTZ.WEEBLY.COM

Driveways

INTERLAY DRIVEWAYS LTD
Whether you require a Traditional or a Contemporary Driveway
We Cater for all Budgets
• Block Paving • Walls & Patios • Tarmac • Landscaping
• Turfing • All types of Groundwork
• Cleaning, Sealing and Repairs
OFFICE: 0121 667 3449 01562 814580
DIRECT: 07490001616 LOCAL: 0845 626 2449
WWW.INTERLAYDRIVEWAYS.CO.UK
WE'LL BEAT ANY LIKE FOR LIKE QUOTE!
Find us on facebook.

Gardening

LINDOPS LANDSCAPES
All Landscape Work Undertaken
No Job Too Small or Too Big
FREE QUOTATIONS
All aspects of Tree Surgery, Block Paving, Fencing, etc
Est. 25 Years
Ex. Botanical Gardener
0121-421 2858
07583 - 748872
10% OFF valid until 30th DECEMBER 2015

To advertise your business and reach more than 56,000 potential customers...

1 Call us on... 01384 399901

2 E-mail us at... sue.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

3 Post to... Sue Jones, Stourbridge Chronicle, 3 Market Street, Stourbridge DY8 1AB

Roofing

M&M Fascias

Quality

• uPVC • Fascias • Soffits • Guttering
• Tile Edging • Roofing

Also
CONCRETE GUTTERING
Specialist removal
Replacing with
Modern low maintenance
Upvc Fascias and Soffits

All work guaranteed with HomePro Insurance

No Free Gimmicks
Family Business
Local References if required

Registered with HomePro Insurance
Membership No. 554518
TRUST MARK
FAIRTRADE

Giving homeowners peace of mind
ALWAYS FREE ADVICE AND QUOTATION
Freephone 0800 799 9413
to speak to Mark
123 Amblecote Road, Brierley Hill, West Midlands DY5 2YD

ROOFING SERVICES

SPECIAL OFFERS
on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/ Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs
- Flat roof specialist
- Insurance work undertaken
- Est 25 years
- Discounted for OAPs
- Exterior Painting

- Gutters Cleaned From £15
- Small Repairs From £15
- Pointing Work From £15

Home: 01384 872276
Mobile: 07584 081228

Property Maintenance

ROWAN PROPERTY MAINTENANCE LTD

★ Interior/Exterior Painting And Decorating
★ All Aspects Of Plastering And Rendering
★ Fascias, Soffits & Guttering
★ Roof Repairs & Re-pointing ★ Pressure washing
★ Plus Much More....

CALL NOW FOR A NO OBLIGATION QUOTATION
01384 213644 or 07733 226568

AGE CONCERN & LOCAL AUTHORITY CONTRACTOR, CITY & GUILD QUALIFIED, PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE (£5 MILLION) ALL STAFF C.R.B. CERTIFIED
PART OF THE ROWAN GROUP OF COMPANIES

P J LEE and SONS

Building and Roofing Specialists
All types of roofwork
• Gutters • Roof Tiles • Chimney Work
• Repointing • Slates Replaced • uPVC Fascias
• Verges • Ridge Tiles • Complete Roofs
FREE ESTIMATES
CALL TODAY
01384 423625 OR 07769 667 248

Plumbing & Heating

KEN PERRY
PLUMBING & HEATING ENGINEER
Gas Fitting, Boiler Servicing and Immersion Heaters, Multi Point Water Heaters, Landlord's Gas Certificates, Boilers changed
Guild of Master Craftsmen
Gas Safe Registered
STOURBRIDGE 392284

Tuition

MATHEMATICS
Finding Maths difficult? Disappointing GCSE results? Need to refresh?
One to one tuition, small groups available, increase confidence and improve skills.
Qualified, experienced specialist Maths teacher now available daytime/early evenings to help Primary, Secondary and Adult learners.
All abilities up to GCSE.
Telephone 07712 427936

Plastering

S HARRIS
PLASTERING SERVICES
All aspects covered
FREE QUOTES
Call Steve
07853 257230

Roofing

PREMIER ROOFING
All aspects.
New Roofs, Repairs, Facias & Gutters.
Call: 0121 532 7601
07875 387445
www.rooferwestmidlands.com

Skip Hire

ALL SIZES ALL AREAS BEST PRICES
All Size Skips available for immediate delivery
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
SCRAP CARS removed for FREE
07920 885774
01384 482542
MT SKIPS
U fill 'em We mt 'em

star extra TRAVEL

RIVIERA TRAVEL

Discover a selection of fascinating European and worldwide escorted tours by air and Eurostar.

Riviera Travel has been carefully researching and thoughtfully crafting an enticing range of European and worldwide guided tours plus a selection of short breaks for over 30 years, for the traveller looking for something just a little bit different.

Their tours offer a perfectly balanced combination of the 'must see' classic sights and delightful 'hidden gems' – uncovered through extensive research of local areas.

Choose from a selection of hand-picked jewels in undiscovered parts of Spain, Malta or Italy, shorter breaks by Eurostar to Paris, Bruges or Normandy, or choose more unusual destinations such as Iceland or Copenhagen.

There is also the chance to travel to a wide variety of once-in-a-lifetime destinations including places like South Africa, America, India or Japan.

For a brochure call (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm)
or go to: expressandstar.com/starextratravel
Please read brochures/web pages for full information plus terms and conditions

Classified Ads

Buy Local, **Sell** Local

funeral directors

Wombourne Funeral Services
Family Business & Monumental Masons
Pre-paid plans. 24hr call-out
Private Chapels of Rest
Wombourne 01902 892635
Perton 01902 756830
Kinver 01384 873499
Wall Heath 01384 274222
wombournefuneralservices.co.uk

J.T. BROOKES
Independent family run Funeral Directors
24 hour service
Brierley Hill 01384 77098
Kingswinford 01384 296683
Hagley 01562 888041
www.nedowning.co.uk

lost & found

LOST—A grey tom cat 'Charlie', in the Foxyards area. Wearing blue/silver collar.Chipped. telephone 07758 260595

LOST—Black cat, wearing red collar which reads I am microchipped, from Perton area. 01902 751953 or 07907 514199.

LOST—Kimme, black cat, 10yrs, very timid, missing from Bradmore area. Any info appreciated. 07939 634708 or 01902 683607.

religious notices

christadelphian

THE WORK OF JESUS EXPLAINED Prophet. December 6, at 6pm, The Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford, Or write to The Dawn (ref:KCE) 5 Station Road, Carlton, Notts. NG4 3AT for free information pack or ring 01384 886544 for recorded message.

1 Family

education & tuition

MATHEMATICS Primary, Secondary, Adult lessons. Qualified specialist teacher. 07712 427936

elderly & disabled

MOBILITY SCOOTER Rascal Voyager, roadworthy, collection only, £450 ono. 07784 315085.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

caravans / motorhomes

TRI STAR AWARD
4 berth touring caravan, very good condition outside, spotless inside, lots of extras, including as new very large awning,
£1,250 ono.
07726 497731.

caravans wanted

CARAVAN WANTED cash on collection wanted ASAP. Call on 07717 090817.

sports & leisure

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

what's on

antique fairs

ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS FAIR
CORNBOW HALL, HAGLEY STREET, HALESOWEN, B63 3AT (NEXT TO WILKOS).
FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER
8.00AM - 4PM
07712 597468
www.blackcountryfairs.co.uk

ANTIQUE/COLLECTORS FAIR Kinver Comm Centre, Sun 6th December (also Bromsgrove every Fri) Stall available for the 6th. EST 1979, Waverley. Next Book Fair Sun 20th Dec. 0121 550 4123

markets

WEDNESBURY STREET MARKET
NOW OPEN EVERY FRIDAY
UNION STREET 07889 975 701

BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET OPEN EVERY SUNDAY
Banks's Stadium, Walsall FC
WS1 4SA, FREE PARKING, J9 M6
07889 975701 All hard standing

mind,body & soul

massage

YouTime
Therapy & Massage Spa
19, Hereward Rise,Halesowen,B62 8AN
A unique fusion of Swedish, Thai & Japanese massage with Aromatherapy & Tai Chi relaxation.
Call 07525 126700
See us on www.youtimetherapy.co.uk or FacebookYouTime Spa

3 Home & Services

collectables & memorabilia

SWAROVSKI CRYSTAL early limited editions, 1988 upwards. Offers from £500. Others available. Telephone 01384 894592 .

furniture

HSL JEWEL motor riser recliner settee, as new, transport if required. £195. 01902 219101.

TRIPLE THREE DOOR wardrobe + 2 bedsides, dark mohagany, reproduction look. As new, perfect. £155. 01562 747214. Evenings only.

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

LARGE swinging type rocking horse, very good condition, suit up to age 12 years. £80 ono. 01922 493674. 07593 276314.

items wanted

A ABSOLUTELY BEST price given for single items or houses cleared. Antique, old, reproduction. Call: 01384 482155 or 07802 475693.

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547.
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

All gold 9ct up to £300 per ounce
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft •Lladro • Old coins • Watches • Costume Jewellery • Old toys • Clocks • Paintings • **ALL SILVER** • All Chinese items • All Oriental Items
Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

BOOK YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS OR FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLINE AT
bookanad. expressandstar.co.uk
and become one of hundreds of customers who regularly receive exclusive special offers & discounts.

ClassifiedAds

BRITISH COINS AND MEDALS wanted by private collector. Please contact 01902 676540.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

RECORDS WANTED
50's, 60's, 70's, Rock, Punk, Rock / Roll, Jazz / 90's Indie. Collections bought. Music Memorabilia, Promo Posters, autographs, etc, etc. Top prices paid.
Telephone 07966 252439.

STUDENT URGENTLY requires cooker. Gas or electric. Call 07946 327732 or 07791 871126.

WANTED SMALL wood turning lathe, reasonable price paid for the right machine. 01902 896665.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS
Free Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts & TV setups.
07850 330251

specialists at your service

aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
FREEVIEW / TALK TALK / BT VISION AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
Work Guaranteed Same Day Service
01902 858191
01384 429166
VISA **01543 439095**
01922 716029
MasterCard **07833 738857**

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

blinds

AB-Blinds
Super 7
7 Child Safe Verticals Fitted from only £199
Call 0800 0347111
www.ab-blinds.co.uk

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry.
All aspects of building work including: Extensions, Loft Conversions, Roofing, Driveways & Landscaping.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
***OAP discount.* Recession Prices.**
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

A BRILL CLEAN for your Carpets & Suite. O.A.P Discounts. Best Prices. Call Steve 07885 782448.

computer repairs

DOES YOUR PC HAVE PROBLEMS? Free advice, free callout, affordable. Open 8am-8pm. Call now: PC Aid 0800 234 3468.

damp proof control

DAMP, CONDENSATION, MOULD CONTROL. Woodworm, Fungus. Over 40 years exp. 01902 324727.

double glazing

UPVC BACK DOORS from £299, front doors from £389 fitted. Windows/Fascia's, 01922 442720.

electrical services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 846167.

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing concrete posts, gravel boards & heavy duty panels supplied and fitted for £695.00
www.portwayfencing.com
83 Portway Rd, Wednesbury, WS10 7EQ
Office: 0121 531 5250
Mobile: 07866 137656

gardening services

For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...
Prestwood FENCING & LANDSCAPING
Call us on: 01384 273586 or 07947 879403 or visit www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED
FULL OR PART GARGAES/ SHEDS, RUBBISH REMOVED WASTE LICENCE
01384 486456 / 07711661135

painters / decorators

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional Female Painter and Decorator
Wallpaper is my speciality, competitive prices. For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle. Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194

removals

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS
Local
Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don: 07749 941319

A1 KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS & HOUSE CLEARANCES
Single items,
Full houses, Offices etc
Recession rates, FREE QUOTES
We take the stress away
40 years experience
07966 281957

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

A1L GIRL REMOVALS

- Free quote
- Free boxes
- Free smiles
- Great prices

With every removal
07802 876876

CALL IAN. Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN. Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

skip hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

S.M.K. B19 .177 rifle, 3.9 x 40 scopes, carry case, as new, £75. 07817 949211.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and chipped.
Call Greyhound Trust 01922 412212 or www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BORDER COLLIES
Nell, 1 year old female collie, tri colour, very affectionate but a bit shy.
Rob, 1 year old border collie, tri colour, friendly with a really lovely nature.
Penny, 5 year old spayed border collie, lovely and affectionate gentle girl, needs socialising.
George, 10 month old border collie, never been socialised but is coming on in leaps and bounds, needs understanding collie home, very handsome.
Also others
01588 676106.

GREY COCKATIEL for sale. £35. o.n.o. Telephone 07716 847443.

YOUNG BUDGIES. for sale 01902 730050.

SPECIAL HOMES WANTED
LASSIE & TINA two small very pretty black and white border collies, aged 6&8, owner died, must stay together.
MOSS 2yrs, long haired very pretty border collie, slightly overweight.
TINK 2yr old spayed girl whipped cross, mostly white affectionate, small girl
SAPPHIRE 10month old English Bull Dog, mostly white, good with other dogs and children, vaccinated, spayed.
ZIGGY 8yr patterdale boy, used to children and dogs, chipped
TARKA spayed girl 8yrs, used to children/dogs, chipped
01588 676106.

TILLY
Two year old lurcher, staffie cross mongrel, lovely girl whose friendly affectionate and who loves everyone, people, children and dogs.
Playful, travels well, in a foster home at the moment.
01384 241034.

WILD ACRE RESCUE
Reg Charity.
Have the following dogs available for re homing,
Vayda, German Shepherd, male, 18 months old.
Cassie, red/merle Collie, 3yr old bitch. Louie, Jack Russell cross, 2yr old male. Bobby, Collie cross, 6yr old male. Cracker, 3 legged Lurcher, 7yr old male. Badger, Salukie cross, 10 month old male. Chenel, red Staffie cross, 14 month old, female.
Call Angela 07714 442263.
Gina 07919 607028.
Lyndsey 07735 516756.
Also cats for rehoming. Black kittens, 12 weeks old. Many other cats available.
Call Pat 07545 679475
wildacrerescue.co.uk and facebook.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

businesses for sale

TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC HOUSE for sale Free of tie. 11yr lease, low overheads, £15,000. 07980 042593.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY and Taxation Services for small business. Fixed Fees. Call 01902 343200

6 Property

accommodation to let

A TWO BED FLAT off Tettenhall Rd, CH, DG. Off road parking, £115.50 pw 01902 340073 / 07770 660636.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

DUDLEY 1-Bed Flat also furnished bedsit with own separate kitchen & shower room. £67/£90 p/w. Mature, DSS considered. 07550 002549.

ONE BED flat, Netherton area. CH, DG. £100pw. deposit required. 07966 283895 or 07976 747022.

TWO BED house, Netherton area. CH. DG. £112 p/w. Dep reqd. No pets. 07976 781003.

World of Mobility

10% OFF WITH THIS ADVERT
T & C APPLY
NEW SCOOTERS FROM £595
USED SCOOTERS FROM £300
RISER RECLINERS FROM £495
STAIRLIFTS/ ELECTRIC BEDS
We offer excellent customer service and aftercare on all our products.
Showroom 108C Brettell Lane, Amblecote Stourbridge DY8 4BS or call 01384 378252
OPEN MON-SAT FREE PARKING AT REAR

MORE CATEGORIES
MORE CLASSIFICATIONS
MORE CHOICE

01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

properties wanted

CASH NOW
WE CAN BEAT ANY PRICE
- Legal fees paid
- No fees
- Any condition
- Guaranteed offer
- Repossessions stopped

we can buy your house in **2 days**

land and commercial enquiries welcome

0800 389 6788 24/7
or 01902 628060

wolverhampton properties
Subject to terms

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERYTIME!

BCH BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

We buy any house
- We are a family run local business.
- Buying properties for over 30 years.
- A fair offer from people you can trust.
- No fees - Free solicitors.
- 30 Years experience

WE ALSO BUY LAND
commercial and industrial premises, shops, factories, building plots... We will even buy your garden

Call Stan on

Text GOAL To 88802 and we will call you back now

0800 999 999 6
or 01902 628047 24/7 www.blackcountry-homes.co.uk
SOLD!

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
Houses/Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7local on
07870 341 089
Sandwell Area Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock Area Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

A LOCAL BUYER pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

7 Jobs

employment wanted

BRICKLAYER REQUIRES WORK: Extensions, garden walls etc: Full-Part time. Anything considered. Telephone 07871 194208.

hotel & catering

KITCHEN PORTER / WASH-UP
Approx 30 hours per week plus overtime.
WEEKEND WORKING ESSENTIAL
Good rates of pay - negotiable.
Transport essential.
Apply to
BLAKELANDS COUNTRY HOUSE & RESTAURANT
Wombourne
Tel: 01384 221000

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

ABARTH 500, grey, fsh, MoT, ideal first car, red leather interior, beautiful little car, £6,450. 07983 662141.

BMW 525D SE TOURING, auto, 53 plate, 6 months MoT, regular service and maintenance. £1,750. Telephone 07803 048271.

BMW C20 SE, diesel, 2006, fsh, full MoT, 89k miles, 2 lady owners, excellent condition, £4,795 o.n.o. Any inspection. 07779 974453.

SELLING YOUR CAR?
We have a package to suit every budget.
Packages start from as little as
£21.00 for 6 nights
Plus
6 nights free if you do not sell.
CALL
01902 317878

CHEVROLEX MATIZ 07 plate, blue, 5dr, 10,165 miles, 12 months MoT, very good condition. £1,995. 07974 501384.

FIAT SEDICI 4x4 only 9,150 miles, 1.9 diesel, 6 speed, EW and mirror, FSH, 11 months MoT, 1 lady owner, only £4,250. 07703 463444.

HYUNDAI 1.2 ACTIVE petrol, 2011, 30,000 miles, MoT March. £30 year tax. Immaculate, lady owner, silver. £3,975. 01902 601601.

VAUXHALL CORSA SXI
2010, 36,330 miles, white, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, fsh, long MoT, central locking, cruise control, pas, alloys, stereo, full body kit.
£4,495 ono.
0790 1917004.

JAGUAR S TYPE 2.7 TURBO DIESEL
Black, automatic, full leather, 55 plate, 89k miles, recent full service and MoT, one careful owner from new, very good condition.
£5,250 ono.
07740 418668.

SUBARU IMPREZA 2-0 WRX
5 door, red with black interior, March 2006, one previous owner, 85,000 miles, fsh in much above average condition
£6,799 ono.
South Shropshire 07765 194970.

AUTOMATIC

VAUXHALL CORSA 05 REG
3dr, 1.0, low costs, excellent condition, any tria before sale, £1,650. 07800 637961.

VAUXHALL INSIGNIA ELITE
2014, 28k, auto, Est. 2.0CDTI 195bhp bi-turbo, dealer fsh, warranty. HTD electric mem seats, privacy, Sat Nav, DAB, electric tailgate. 19ins alloys. BiXenon, LED run lights, sensors, immaculate.
£15,000.
07971 365912.

VW FOX 1198CC
60 plate, 50,900 miles, black, air bags, alarm, CD/radio. MoT Sept 2016. Next service Aug 2016. Group 1 insurance. Good condition.
£2,750 ono.
07702 834322.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CITROEN PICASSO HDi, Exclusive, diesel, 04, full service history, long MoT, immaculate, £695. 07486 610184.

FORD FIESTA 1.3 Fun, 2001, red, 80,000 miles, manual, 3dr, full MoT, service history, clean car, £495. 01902 335714.

FORD FIESTA FINESSE 1242cc, 54 plate, blue. MoT March 2016. 68,000 miles. £1,195. Telephone 07980 066642.

FORD FOCUS Zetec Estate, Diesel, 2003, MoT Aug, 160k miles, good runner, very reliable. £790. 07929 637868. Wombourne.

FORD FOCUS 1.8 With boot, 2002, immaculate, loads spent, well maintained, 10 mnths MoT £495. 07852 691074 / 01384 231465.

FORD FOCUS LX 1.4
2005, 117,000 miles, silver, 5 door, new MoT, excellent condition, fsh, 2 owners, absolutely any trial.
£1,275.
01922 693499.

FORD FOCUS Studio, 1.6 TDCi estate, diesel, 56 reg, 76,000 miles, MoT August 2016, excellent condition, £1,495. 07464 419329.

FORD KA 2007, 52k, 1200cc, MoT, PAS, CD, Looks drives superb, £850. o.n.o. 07523 729551.

FORD KA Zetec climate, 1.3i, black, 39k miles, 4 owners, MoT, colour coded bumpers / spoilers, lady owner, £1,295 ono. 07792 000500.

HONDA HRV 4 wheel drive, 2001, one owner from new, 76k, tow bar etc, slight work required for MoT. £850 ono. 07850 233858.

JAGUAR S TYPE 3.0. 2000. Owned for 8 yrs. New exhaust, discs, pads, battery etc:12 mths MoT. lovely condition for yr. £1,000. 07855 253534

JAGUAR XTYPE 2002 Good body and mechanics, no MoT, needs new sills, £350 ono. 01902 761458.

MX5 black convertible, 1999, T reg, PAS, EW, radio / CD, alloys, no MoT, £575 ono or part ex for motorbike. W'ton: 07966 539516.

PEUGEOT 406L TD Saloon, R reg, 1 previous owner, serviced, new suspension springs, 5 months MoT. £675 ono. 01902 419012.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 5-door, X reg, 49,000 miles only, silver, sun roof, PAS, CL, CD, long MoT, £595. Please call 07779 455916.

RENAULT MEGANE Cabriolet, X Reg., good condition, 9 months MoT, £375 o.n.o. 07984 514422.

ROVER 100 1998, 30,000 miles, MoT December, nice condition. £350. 01902 330905.

ROVER 45 1.6. 2003, MoT May 2016, 49,000 miles, good condition. £725 ono.
Telephone 0121 526 4630.

ROVER 75 CLUB
CDT Tourer, 2.0 diesel CD player, sat nav, MoT March 16, very clean condition, FSH, tow bar fitted.
£850 ono.
07791 372967.

ROVER MGZS +, 52 reg, Saloon, blue, 1,8, 11 months MoT, no rust, £850 ono. May part ex. 07747 740971. 01902 530123.

SMART CAR, two seater, December 2004, 60,000 miles, 12 months MoT. Excellent condition, very cheap and economical to run, £1,500 ono. 01785 250577.

VAUXHALL ASTRA Club, 1.6, 5dr, 2004, MoT May 2016, PAS, 88,000 miles, SH, black, immaculate, £895. 07939 498854.

VAUXHALL ASTRA Twinport, black 5-dr, 05 reg, Facelift, 86,000 miles, FSH, very good condition. £1395. 01902 650894. 07804 780221.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 1999, 11 months MoT, good runner, bargain, £400 ono.
07799 292493.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 Design, 04, 3 door, private plate, silver, history, MoT, good condition. £1,000. 07599 220780.

VAUXHALL OMEGA 2.6 AUTO
2003. 118,000 miles. MoT Feb 19, 2016. SH. Excellent drive. Radio cassette. Same owner last 6 years. Any trial.
£650 ono.
01299 879245.

VW GOLF 150bhp, Diesel, 52 plate, spares or repairs, MoT April, £300 ono.
07468 595244 / 07765 223859.

VW SHARAN 2001, petrol, 7 seater, long MoT, very clean and tidy, stereo, £550.
07950 398750.

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer.Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

CITROEN BERLINGO van, 1.9 diesel, 2002, 5 months MoT, good condition, £895. 07843 244728 or 01299 824482.

driving tuition

Homer's
Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
MALE & FEMALE INSTRUCTORS
MANUAL & AUTOMATIC
ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10
07970 200066 / 01562 870050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 580065
www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

motorbikes

BMW R1100 RT MoT June, 20k miles with paniers & top box £2,600 ono or exchange for clean, low miles 1200 Bandit. 07949 905959.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

A BETTER PRICE
for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.
NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

spares & accessories

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328 or
07972 169554 anytime
For Example:
Citroen C1, C2, C3
Hyundai 110
Toyota Yaris
Clios & Micras
Ring for quotes on others!

mobile mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 848469.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

RUBINIA WINIFRED KNOWLES (otherwise Mrs Ruby Winifred Knowles) (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925, notice is hereby given that any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 31 Wassell Road, Wollescote, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY9 9DA, who died on 22/9/2015 are required to send written particulars to the undersigned on or before 12/2/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
Chorus Law Ltd, Heron House, Timothy's Bridge Road, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 9BX.

10 Personals

personal

AT MANYANA Gentlemans Club, 5* customer rated-Mon-Fri 10-9pm. Sat-Sun: 10-11pm. 0121 472 7281.

GENUINE MAN 52
Attractive, slim, caring, GSOH, solvent, car owner, WLTM lady 40 to 58 for evenings/days out and friendship.
Don't be shy, please reply and claim a free hug.
Box Number P20149 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL LONE LADIES
One genuine and romantic Santa, young at heart, aged early 60s, wishing to find slim lady aged 55-66 with GSOH to see what the future brings. Life is too short to be alone.
All letters replied to.
Ho Ho Ho Ho
Box Number P20148 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

SINGLE, SLIM MAN
Car owner, age 67, would like to meet a lady for outings and meals out, likes social clubs, easy going person.
Box Number P20152,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

sports clubs

COOKLEY SPORTS FC
Football Players Required
Year 9 or 10.
For new progressive team with no weekly fees.
Please contact Craig
07977 936690.

W'TON ADULT SUNDAY MORNING Football Team want reliable Goalkeeper and Outfield Players. Ring Bob 07810 181088.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

SELL IT FAST
SELL IT LOCAL
Cars, Caravans, Household Goods etc.

ONLY
£21.00
FOR 6 NIGHTS
PLUS *6 nights Free if you do not sell!*
Includes one week online and your local Chronicles

TELEPHONE - 01902 317878
ON LINE - bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk
IN PERSON - At your local Express & Star office

*SOURCE: Jicreg 01.10 .2012. Private advertisers only.

Buy Local, **Sell** Local
01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

Making Friends

Try it.. You'll love it!

YOUR regional dating service, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. **REAL people in YOUR region**

Here's how to use your dating service ...

Place your advert call:
0844 381 5936
and follow the simple instructions

To **Place** your ad by text
Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098**
FREE Standard Network rates apply.

To **Reply** to members from your landline call:
0906 500 3955
calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do ***key-it-in promptly*** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

Or **Text...** **REPLY26** (leave space) box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26** 123456 **hi get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

Date **ONLINE**
YOU can now date online or via your **mobile**
Simply **VISIT** us at:

Been left a message? **Pickup** your replies:
0906 500 3957
calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.
http://dating.expressandstar.com

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet ***you.. visit..*** http://dating.expressandstar.com

Women seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

FEMALE, dark haired 5'10, curvy, likes reading, walking, cinema, seeks male 40-50 for lasting relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5077545**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 4294 Box 419673**

PROFESSIONAL black female age 52, enjoys evenings and days out, would like to meet similar Midlands male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5315901**

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 4299 Box 418167**

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420073**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 4291 Box: 409715**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 4275 Box: 405297**

MAGGIE, 72 yrs young, good sense of humour, well presented, WLTM kind, sincere chappie to share coffee and a chat. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5310040**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 4295 Box: 413399**

LOUISE 35, dark hair, blue eyes, attractive ex air hostess, looking for fun times with older male for romantic nights in and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420043**

LOUISE, pretty hairdresser, works long hours, finds it hard to meet a boyfriend, 34yrs, own flat. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4192572**

39 yr old independent single Mom, knows the benefit of having a good man in the picture. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5084796**

JENNI, single mum seeks single dad, own home, can accommodate and loves spoiling her man. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4115108**

FRANCES, 45, busty female, loves nights in/out, seeking uncomplicated male who can occupy my free time for quality companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420003**

FEMALE, seeks fun loving male who likes a drink and a laugh, to enjoy erotic experiences with a curvy brunette. Discretion guaranteed. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5079311**

MARY, pretty, friendly, lots of fun, lives in Kidderminster, loves the theatre, opera, ballet, WLTM a lovely, charming, funny, genuine guy, 30s, to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419883**

LOU, 45, lives in Shrewsbury, WLTM a lady between 42-49 with blue eyes, must be kind, caring and funny to mend my broken heart, someone who likes to curl up on the sofa for cozy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419855**

FREYA 24yr old single mum, looking for male for free time frolics, call me if you're interested, it could be fun! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419851**

LISA 38 slim attractive blonde, looking for a man who will appreciate a feminine, fashionable, fun, romantic sensual woman with a mind of her own. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419839**

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, sensual, tactile, no ties, WLTM kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419821**

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277**

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773**

JULIA 47, looking for genuine, reasonably attractive male friend, may to lead to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419695**

LADY Penelope seeks her very own Parker (47-58) to go on a voyage of discovery and romance. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4550237**

BLACK lady seeks white male over 60, any location, for friendship and hopefully a lot more. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4256384**

CHARLENE, 24, petite curvy young blonde seeks similar cheeky, fun loving guy for lots of fun and loving. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419597**

JOANNA, 36, petite, auburn haired female, lovely figure seeks loving older male for fun nights out and cosy nights in. Maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419595**

SHARON 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and passionate, WLTM male 45-65yrs for fun meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419579**

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417**

KAREN 50, widow, likes swimming, horse riding, keep fit, clay pigeon shooting, GSOH, N/S, non drinker, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415211**

CURVY, farm girl at heart, 32, 5ft 10, single mum, caring, kind, shy, likes walks, cooking WLTM tactile male farmer for LTR. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5067001**

FEMALE medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429**

WIDOW 50, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5ins, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767**

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417**

FEMALE 50's, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks gent with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415871**

BLUE eyed female, blonde hair, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416989**

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418117**

CAROL Ann, sensitive slim brunette very romantic seeks tall handsome male for fun, friendship and lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419385**

KIRSTEN, 36, attractive, blonde and very bored, seeking open-minded decent male for fun/friendship, 40-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419383**

LADY young at heart, nice eyes, seeks man 42-52 with good sense of humour. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4881572**

VAL 41, pretty, cuddly, flirty, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601**

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341**

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you wont be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

DIVORCED female, attractive, sensual by nature, OHAC, bored with own company looking to make life a little more exciting with likeminded man. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419219**

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant, **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985**

LINDA, 47, brown-eyed blonde, caring, loving and honest, many interests, seeks genuine male to share lonely evenings with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417211**

JOYCE, affectionate sensitive widow, bit of a romantic, seeks loving male for lots of TLC. Looks unimportant, it's what's in the heart that matters. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419143**

DEBBIE, 29, looking for mature professional fun guy, 40-50 to spend good times with. Call me, you have nothing to lose. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419075**

JULES, sensitive tactile, curvy brunette, hopeless romantic, seeks tall, loving male for fun, friendship and possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419033**

VIRGINIA, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418845**

HEATHER, well travelled solvent brunette looking to share a large glass of wine and whatever follows with affectionate man friend. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419031**

PAULINE, 49yrs, very attractive, curvy divorcee, affectionate and fun, seeks laid back, sincere male for an uncomplicated, loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418925**

VIRGINIA, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418845**

LOOKING for the right chemistry with country loving gent who like me is looking for some extra fun in their life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418843**

LYN, 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTM similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418795**

SOPHIA very sensual black lady looking to acquire a new distraction with lots of adult fun thrown in for good measure. Race/age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413399**

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTM passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609**

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, widow, 50's, likes walks, sight seeing, theatre, meals out, seeks genuine, professional gent, 5ft 9ins plus to make life more enjoyable. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418615**

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTM passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609**

SENSUAL tactile, attractive female, long blonde hair, blue eyes, loves travel, wining/dining, WLTM genuine male for mutual companionship. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418587**

BROKEN hearted lady 39 seeks loving male to mend heart age 39/40. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4869116**

KAY, very young 45, fit and active, no ties, seeks similar young at heart, fun male for fun meets. Age/Status/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418577**

VIVACIOUS strawberry blonde who knows just what she wants, looking for caring male for spontaneous fun relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418445**

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369**

JO 55, curvy redhead, loves eating out, theatre, travel, looking for middle-aged prince charming to sweep me off my feet. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4464905**

GENUINE lady looking for genuine male, age 58-60, for friendship and to have a laugh with. So if that's you would love to hear from you. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4537136**

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277**

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773**

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369**

EILEEN, slim green eyed brunette likes meals out and cosy nights in, seeks tall male who would make her laugh and brighten up her day. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418347**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

FEMALE seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417195**

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847**

CAROL 49, attractive, green eyed blonde, honest warm hearted, n/s with GSOH likes cinema, music, walking, meals out and travel seeking similar male. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4283683**

FEMALE, 50, short blond hair, blue eyes, 5ft 10, slim build, looking for a man 50- 55 with salt and pepper hair and GSOH. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4435776**

HEATHER, 34, single very attractive brunette, sensual and interesting, looking to add to life's experiences and adventures with professional male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418193**

JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169**

JAN, 47, once bitten twice shy! Looking for non complicated fun times. Attractive, discreet, OHAC, you won't be disappointed. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418089**

EMMA, 43, easygoing female looking to broaden her horizons, WLTM similar male for romantic liaisons. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418009**

SHARON, 48, tall slim attractive, live alone with no ties, love romanticising and WLTM man for good times together, maybe more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417751**

SINGLE mom, 40yrs, small, not skinny WLTM single dad aged 39 to 45. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4295299**

FEMALE, 36, looking for a genuine guy to wine and dine me with lots of laughter and fun times. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4758012**

JULIE, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTM male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more. status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418007**

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787**

BOSTON female 56 loyal, intelligent, loves history seeks dependable humorous male for friendship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4751421**

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787**

THEA, 36, extrovert brunette, curly hair, rugby fan, WLTM genuine male who will accept her as she is. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417763**

ATTRACTIVE kind, caring, single lady, loves animals, WLTM uniformed office for genuine, sincere relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417623**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

WAYNE, 40, cheeky, good career, likes gym. Looking for a lady who likes stimulating conversation and times. **Tel No: 0906 515 4345 Box No: 419829**

DARREN, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418809**

VERY useful, attractive 58 yr old, GSOH, six foot tall, nice build, n/s, genuine, tactile, fit and sporty, looking for a women for nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420135**

MICHAEL, school teacher, very shy and lonely, 42yrs, own home, car, seeks genuine caring lady. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4156561**

COLIN, five foot eight, blue eyes, bundle of fun to be around, likes growing fuchsias for showing, vintage tractor for showing, weekends away, going out and staying in WLTM a lady for friendship/LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420089**

STEVE 39, 5ft 9ins, medium build, likes walks, seeks female, slim-medium build, single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396709**

6FT well built guy, nicely groomed looking for fun intimate nights or day with slim/medium build attractive lady 35-55. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5132460**

ALAN, 56 year old builder, muscular build, five foot ten, fit, likes the gym, pubs, clubs and days out, seeks female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419975**

ATTRACTIVE, fit, sporty, tactile, youthful black male seek relationship with lady. N/S. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4851641**

WIDOWER, quiet, easygoing, slim, 5ft 7 tall, smart, varied interests, seeks slimish lady, 50 to 65 yrs for caring relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4906469**

TIM, easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non-conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. Notts. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375065**

SUBMISSIVE 44year old WLTM dominant female 25-30 years who enjoys role play with friendship and maybe possible relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5084114**

COLIN 61, lorry driver, 5'10", blue eyes, kind hearted, romantic, hobbies include growing fuchsia's for showing and I have a vintage tractor that I play with from time to time. Looking for similar who's up for a lot of fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418463**

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283**

MARK 40, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, attractive, good looking, OHAC/business, likes walks, day trips, cinema, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 348239**

PROFESSIONAL male, 41, own business, likes to enjoy life, clubs, pubs, cinema, gym, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360283**

MALE 45yrs old, self-employed motor trader/mechanic, medium build, green eyes, average looks. I am a nice genuine and honest person looking for similar lady to share a honest permanent relationship and happy times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418709**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

MIKE late 60's fit, active, genuine and generous, very passive seeks assertive lady any age / looks for mutual benefits. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4747481**

STOCKY, bold, unhappily married man, seeks similar very discreet female for exciting rendezvous. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4757315**

ATTRACTIVE tall black male would like to meet female for day time fun and discreet meetings, any age or location. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5077442**

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283**

GENTLEMAN, 57, slightly mad but not bad, who will make you ever so glad that you answered his ad! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419307**

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

JAMES GSOH, likes theatre, meals out, socialising, seeking easy going female, 35-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417469**

PETE 47, enjoys walking, meals out, seeks female, age/looks/status unimportant, with similar interests for adult fun text only. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5063152**

MALE 60s WLTM genuine fun lady, 50/60s nights in or out, likes swimming, walks, music, good food etc for friendship or more. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4852727**

TIM, easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non-conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. Notts. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375065**

PAUL 50yrs, Birmingham, with own house and own car, I have a good sense of humour and I like going out, I'm looking for the right girl for friendship/relationship. Call me when you can. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418465**

LEE, 50, seeking an Asian female for discreet fun and maybe more. Dudley area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419401**

ANDREW 53, widower, honest, genuine, caring, tactile, GSOH. Kidderminster based, hoping to love again with a decent loving lady. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4911450**

45 year old male with varied interests WLTM female 35 to 55 for fun and friendship and hopefully more. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4215562**

COLIN 48, kind loving, seeks large cuddly lady 45 to 60 for LTR, love, romance, also like cuddles, kisses and holding hands. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4906088**

TOM, a young 59 active attractive male, 5ft8, slimmish & fit with decent looks & friendly nature, many interests, looking for lady similar age. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4926340**

GENTLEMAN, 57, slightly mad but not bad, who will make you ever so glad that you answered his ad! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419307**

GENT 55, slightly mad, but not bad, will make you glad you answered his ad! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408973**

GENUINE caring male, seeks similar female for friendship or possibly more. Aged between 25-39. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4916049**

ANDY 53, widower, honest, genuine, caring, happy tactile, hoping to find love again with a decent loving lady. Kidderminster. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4911450**

TACTILE, romantic guy, height 5ft 6in, loves good food and drinking in or out, dancing, music, conversation and cuddles. Ready for love. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4893329**

TALL attractive professional male, 50, GSOH, looking for some fun, adventure and sparkle. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418951**

MALE seeks affectionate, tactile, no drama, down to earth woman for nights in/out and loads of cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418695**

COLIN, 48, seeks large cuddly lady between 45-55 for LTR, must like hugs, kisses, cuddles and holding hands. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4906088**

MALE 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine, caring, likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997**

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

Men seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

BI male would like to meet same. 60 to 80 yrs. Must be able to accommodate. Coventry or Birmingham. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4931168**

TALL male 57, seeks older male 60 to 80 for adult fun. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4347071**

TOM young 59 attractive male, decent looking, fit, slimmish, good company & fun loving with many interests, seeking similar male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4926340**

BI male would like to meet same, 60 to 80 years. Must be able to accommodate for fun weekends. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4931168**

BI male WLTM same for weekend fun, 60 to 70 years old. Must be able to accommodate. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4931168**

Women seeking Women

LONELY mother seeks female friends for enlivening/enlightening coffee chats, likes countryside animals etc. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4860241**

ATTRACTIVE full figure bi lady 58 seeks female of similar age for fun times. Cotswold area. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4636475**

36YR attractive black curvy female seeking boyish female local for relationship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4483526**

Friends

MODERN young at heart lonely lady, 70's, likes trips out, holidays, seeking similar lady for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410215**

CUSTOMER SUPPORT
Call 0207 720 7130 Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm
or email us at support@jmediauk.co.uk

CALL CHARGES*: DATING 18+ and have the bill payer's permission. 0844 calls cost 7 pence per min, 090 calls cost £1.55 per min, plus your phone company's access charge. Calls are recorded and may appear on your bill. TEXT*: Text alerts are charged at £1.50 per week. To unsubscribe to text alerts, text DATING STOP to 63333. To cancel free match alerts, text STOP to 07781474042. For full T&Cs go to www.localdates-terms.co.uk/. REPLY BY TEXT*: 80098/89990 costs £1.50 per SMS received (max 150 characters). Guaranteed up to 4 messages for each message you send, Service only available where phone icon shown. Messages are moderated. Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. This service is not computer generated. All messages are responded to by real service users. No meetings can be guaranteed. If arranging a meeting be sure to choose a public space and do not give personal details to people you have not met. To STOP text stop to 80098/89990. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207 720 7130. ALL SERVICES*: By texting any shortcode you consent to the owner of that shortcode sending you the occasional marketing message. To opt out of receiving these send NO INFO to 80098. DATA PROTECTION: Service provided by JMedia UK Ltd, SW4 7BX, 0207 720 7130. We will collect the details you provide and may send you details of other services and events operated by us. We may pass your details onto this newspaper for marketing or PhonePayPlus for regulatory purposes. Advertisers may come from our national database and from our pdc app. w/c 30/11/15

Young team suffer defeat in division clash

ON Tuesday Stourbridge Chess Club sent a very young team to Mercia in Dudley Division 3.

Veteran Colin Woodall was accompanied by juniors Dan Arkell, Kyle Price and Cameron Sanders who was making his debut.

Stourbridge lost 3-1 with Woodall drawing on board one and Arkell getting another creditable draw on board two.

On Wednesday the BDCL Division 1 team hosted South Birmingham C.

This was a match SCC could and indeed should have won.

On board one Grandmaster Keith Arkell played the Kings Indian Fianchetto against R.Mycroft.

A position with two rooks and opposite-coloured bishops arose in which Arkell had a dangerous passed pawn and an attack.

His eventual win was the first game to finish.

This was followed by a draw for Nic Fallowfield who was playing on board four.

After that things went downhill with Stourbridge players making mistakes on boards two, five and six which resulted in losses.

Greg Dyett had a good win on board three, his king side attack netting an exchange.

So, Stourbridge lost the match by the narrowest of margins – 3.5-2.5.

If you are interested in playing chess come along to the club night at the Stourbridge Institute on Wednesdays7:30pm.

Contact Dave Scriven on 01384 423642 or visit www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk for more information about the club.

Old Hales enjoy a clean sweep

OLD Halesonians Hockey Club completed a clean sweep of victories across all their sides this weekend for the first time this season.

The Mens 1st XI beat Edgbaston 2-1 at King Edward Five Ways in their Warwick Printing Midlands One fixture, but it was a real Jekyll and Hyde performance from the hosts.

The first half was as dull as the weather, as Hales struggled to keep possession or muster any chances of note.

However, Edgbaston could not take advantage, as yet again Hales' rearguard proved a tight unit to break though.

After stern words at half-time, the hosts improved and finally started to put passes together and create chances. It was through their first meaningful attack they scored.

Tom Durnford drove into the D to win a short corner and from the resulting play, the ball broke to Graham Knight whose reverse hit strike found the bottom corner.

The goal galvanised the hosts and they soon doubled their lead as Josh Randhawa poked the ball home after an initial shot from Knight was saved.

Edgbaston fought back and claimed a consolation goal, but they could not find an equaliser before the final whistle.

The result consolidates Hales in third place, three points off second placed Loughborough Town. After the game, captain Paul Woodall said, "We proved that possession doesn't guarantee you points, it's about creating chances and taking them and that's what we did." Hales travel to Coventry and North Warwick this Saturday.

Other results saw the Ladies end their recent losing streak defeating Stourport 5ths 2-1 with goals from Molly Kelly and Rae Andrews.

The men's section saw the 2nds, 3rds and 4ths complete 5-0 victories, against Finchfield, Telford and Sutton Coldfield respectively. The Mens 5ths won 3-2 against Edgbaston and the Badgers completed the set, with a 4-0 victory over Worcester.

Dominant Tivs are handed a shock defeat

Carlton Town 5 Tividale 2

IN a game that was labelled a six-pointer and possibly the defining one of the season, Tividale promised so much but ended with nothing against a side also in the bottom three of Evo-Stik Division One South.

The pitch required an inspection on the morning of the game after heavy rain for most of the previous week up in Nottingham and after passing the game was going to be played on a very heavy pitch.

No-one could have seen what was to come as Tividale started much the better with chances for Malachi Farquharson and Chris Sterling.

But as can always happen when you don't make the pressure tell, Carlton took the lead with their first shot on target on 37 minutes when Daniel Gordon curled a free-kick over the wall and into the top corner.

On 43 minutes Tividale were back in the game when Sterling netted from the penalty spot after Chris Rabone had been fouled.

Sterling gave Tivi the lead a minute after the break with a curling shot.

But on 57 minutes Carlton levelled as a Joe Fitzpatrick free-kick out by the corner flag somehow ended up in the back of the Tividale net.

Sterling passed up the chance to complete a hat-trick and the home side took Tividale apart in the final 15 minutes as Romaine Graham, Josh Rae and Fitzpatrick, with his second goal, took advantage of some poor defensive work to wrap up the three points.

Stour have to fight to the last for win

Chester 11 Stourbridge 18

STOUR were pushed to the limits by a determined Chester side that threw everything into a late goal line siege.

The Stour defences just held as both sides gave their all in deteriorating conditions that discouraged expansive rugby.

Making first use of a stiff breeze Chester opened their account when outside half Rhys Hayes landed a penalty kick after a tackle offence.

Stour ground their way up to the Chester 22 but not for the only time in the game they were penalised for holding on at the tackle and Chester struck again when No.8 Dave Ford crashed over from a well-executed lineout catch and drive.

A dangerous clear-out enabled outside half Chris Scott to open Stour's account midway through the half with a penalty.

Chester then pressed attacks that were comfortably contained by the Stour defences, both sides coughing up the ball with frequent handling errors.

Overcooked

Another shot at goal by Hayes flew wide, the error compounded by an overcooked punt that gifted Stour scrum feed in Chester's half.

A set of patient drives advanced to the host's line where tighthead Mark George barged over unmarked in the corner.

Chester pressed a final 1st half attack but were held up in a maul.

The rain was falling even heavier as the second half started, Stour replacement Rod Petty slotting in at centre for Joe Heatley.

An early Chester attack regained the lead through a penalty kick for Hayes after a defender went off his feet at a tackle bang in front of the Stour posts.

The restart was fumbled back to Stour and a penalty secured for side-entry but Scott's kick flew wide.

A dozy offside on the clearance kick gifted Stour a further penalty deep in the Chester 22 that was kicked to the corner, the forwards setting siege to the hosts' line.

Chris Depper's catch set up a maul that was advancing at speed before the defenders pulled it down to concede a penalty try converted by Scott.

The visitors' pack got to work, a huge drive led by loose head Stef Thorp turned over Chester's scrum feed, but the hosts' pack recovered to hold steady when Stour declined a straightforward three points and opted to scrum again.

The opportunity went begging though when the ball was spilt out wide.

A huge linekick by Petty set up another set of phases in the Chester 22, Hayes getting himself a rest in the sin bin for a late no-arms hit on Scott. Stour kicked to the corner and pressed the attack, Petty quickly punting a penalty award to winger Josh Trinham in Chester's in goal but it was disallowed and Scott settled for a further successful penalty kick.

The hosts inched closer and closer to the tryline as the clock wound down, but the hardworking Stour defences held.

The final five minutes saw an all-out assault, Chester chasing a draw.

Stour's front five look to contest a lineout at Chester in a game where neither side gave any ground

Kenny denies approach to take QPR job

Wolves boss Kenny Jackett insists he hasn't been approached by QPR for their vacant manager's job.

Rumours are rife that the London club have launched a formal bid to prise Jackett from Wolves.

Rangers are said to have Jackett high on their shortlist to replace Chris Ramsey, who was sacked earlier this month.

Jackett, however, denied that QPR had contacted him – and committed his future to Wolves.

The 53-year-old has close ties to London and spent three years at Loftus Road as assistant to Ian Holloway from 2001 to 2004. Jackett said of the speculation: "It's not my position to talk about others clubs. But there hasn't been any approach to myself, or as far as I'm aware, the club, so there's nothing to say on it.

"I'm committed to Wolves."

Tigers get their claws into Dudley

Trysull 4 Team Dudley 0

TRYSULL Tigers left Team Dudley licking their wounds with a 4-0 victory in West Midlands Division One.

The students went behind after 19 minutes when Stephen Rickhuss played in Ross Melrose to slot a shot past keeper Liam Jones.

Six minutes later Trysull doubled the lead when Jonathan Patrick's shot from half-way was carried into the net by the wind.

The final two minutes were ones to forget for TD with a double blow.

After losing the ball in midfield, a perfect cross found Jack Johnson who rounded Jones to make it 3-0. Then, right at the death, Trysull broke away and Johnson finished off the move abruptly with a simple finish.

Final whistle

THE ONLY READ
FOR REAL FANS
EVERY MONDAY

If you want the definitive read on the weekend football action there is only one place to go – Final whistle supplement in the Express & Star.
Packed with match reports, infographics and player reaction, Final whistle offers the best football coverage around. With expert analysis from star pundits like Kevin Phillips, as well as graphics of the key moments, tables and stats, make sure you get your copy.
A real football read for real football fans.

TO ADVERTISE IN FINAL WHISTLE CALL OUR EXPERIENCED SALES TEAM ON 01902 31 31 31

An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star

Sport

Clean sweep for Old Hales sides
Page 39

Stour have to dig in for victory
Page 39

Pics pick up the point with goalless draw

Rushall 0 Halesowen 0

HALESOWEN Town left Rushall Olympic with a point as they played out a goalless draw in the Evo-Stik Premier.

Luke Benbow introduced Halesowen's new keeper Shaun Rowley to the game early on when he forced him into a save low down.

Rowley was pleased to see the ball caught under Zak Martin's feet before he could shoot before veteran Asa Charlton produced two good tackles to deny Alex Reid.

Kris Taylor forced another save from Rowley, who was impressive in the first half as he also saved from Reid, Benbow and Jake Heath.

The visitors' best chance came when Jean Michel-Gueyes fired straight at Dean Coleman from close range before Rowley produced his best save so far – diving to his left to keep out Jack Duggan, who went close earlier on.

Reid tried to square for Heath early on in the second half but good defending from Aaron Griffiths prevented the midfielder from having a tap in.

Griffiths came close to breaking the deadlock as he curled a free-kick just wide of the target before Benbow shot wide at the other end.

The visitors almost won it late on when Michel-Gueyes drove at goal from 20 yards but Coleman produced the best save of the game to tip the ball onto the bar.

Rushall Olympic: Coleman, Christophorou, Wilkinson, Martin (Tolley 60), Duggan, Townsend, Heath, Palmer (Wright 60), Benbow (Lavelle-Moore 82), Taylor, Reid. Subs not used: Caines, Howell

Halesowen: Rowley, Summerfield, Griffiths, Denny, Morrison, Westwood, Charlton, Michel-Gueyes, Reffell, Waite (Daniels 64), Hales.

Inspired Lambert was terrific, says Albion boss Pulis

TONY PULIS hailed "terrific" Rickie Lambert after the striker inspired Albion's comeback to claim a point at West Ham.

With the Baggies one down at Upton Park, Pulis introduced the veteran striker as a half-time substitute and within five minutes he had helped create the equaliser when his shot deflected off the hand of Hammers skipper Winston Reid.

The 33-year-old has seen his playing time limited since a £3million summer move from Liverpool and Pulis believes his performance in yesterday's 1-1 draw was just reward for his professional attitude.

"It was time for Rick," said the Baggies head coach. "He is a wonderful footballer.

"Since he's joined the club, he's not played as much football as he wants and that's my fault. I pick teams I think are going to win games.

"His attitude to training and the players and the young people at the football club is absolutely fantastic. He cares about football and wants to play every."

Dean buzzes off after deal with Bees

Football

MANY Walsall fans believe their promotion dreams are in tatters following the shock departure of boss Dean Smith.

Smith and assistant manager Richard O'Kelly left the Banks's Stadium on Monday to join Championship side Brentford.

The news has been met with dismay by the majority of Saddlers supporters who, after an impressive start to the season, had hoped Smith would stay to mastermind their push for the Championship.

Smith and O'Kelly were in the crowd on Monday night to watch their new side in action against Bolton at the Macron Stadium. Now the Saddlers begin life without their old management team .

Coaches John Ward, Jon Whitney and Neil Cutler will be in charge of team affairs.

And in another surprise twist, reports emerged that Salop boss Micky Mellon could be one of the names in the frame to replace Smith at the Banks's.

"After rebuffing interest from a Championship club last month, the Saddlers successfully agreed a new 12-month rolling contract with Dean," the statement said. "However, at the time of signing he requested assurances from the club that he would be given the opportunity to speak to any interested parties regarding any future job opportunities should they arise." Brentford are believed to have targeted Smith after a move for Swansea assistant manager Pep Clotet collapsed last week.

And the Walsall club statement confirmed the Bees made their approach in the build-up to Saturday's win over Bradford.

"After an approach from Brentford ahead of our game against Bradford City on Saturday – Dean indicated his desire to speak to the Championship outfit," it read.

"Talks were concluded swiftly."

A FOUR-MULA FOR WINNING

Stourbridge 4 Spennymoor Town 2

STOURBRIDGE continued their stunning Cup form this season with the win against Spennymoor Town in the FA Trophy third qualifying round.

Glassboys boss Gary Hackett rang the changes with next Saturday's eagerly awaited FA Cup clash against Eastleigh in mind.

He made six changes from the side that beat Marine in their previous outing and that clearly showed in the first half as lower level Spennymoor were much the better side.

Hackett admitted: "In the first half we were below par and very fortunate to find ourselves in front."We changed the formation in the second half and the outcome was very pleasing."

Spennymoor should have built a compelling lead by half-time after Liam Henderson hammered a shot against the Glassboys' post on 19 minutes while goalkeeper Lewis Solly produced two top class saves to keep out goalbound shots from Gavin Cogdon and then Andy Stephenson just after the half-hour mark.

Smash

But after looking second best for most of the half, Stourbridge took the lead on 37 minutes when Drew Canavan crossed from the right for Mark Wright to smash home at the far post.

Spennymoor struck back immediately when Stephenson's 41st-minute corner picked out central defender Joe Tait who netted with a downward header.

Determined Spennymoor then took the lead on 53 minutes when Stourbridge's defence backed off for Stephenson to let fly with a fabulous 25-yard effort.

Stourbridge levelled matters on 66 minutes when Ben Billingham's pin-point free-kick picked out skipper Stuart Pierpoint who climbed highest in a crowded goalmouth to head home.

Two minutes later, Stourbridge were ahead, Justin Richards cutting inside to rifle home from the edge of the box.

Stourbridge duly added a fourth on 87 minutes when Wright to turned the ball home.

Not a pretty sight at Molineux

Wolves Jordan Graham was again the bright spark of hope for Wolves

Wolves 0 MK Dons 0

ONE win in eight matches, a second successive goalless draw at home, two wins at Molineux all season... not a pretty picture.

Neither does Wolves' league position – 15th with just 21 points from 18 matches and a goal difference of minus one.

They remain closer to the relegation zone than the top six, although curiously they once again edged closer to the play-offs in terms of points, as they did last week, with sixth-placed Blues' second successive defeat meaning Wolves have seven points to catch up.

But it's hard to garner any positives from Wolves' current malaise. A second match of deep frustration – of promising performances but a lack of confidence and clinical finishing – was encapsulated in this farce of a draw against MK Dons.

Farcical in that they created enough opportunities to win three matches, but spurned every single one of them.

The supporters ominously and noisily voiced their discontent, both at full-time and when Jordan Graham was substituted despite him being Wolves' best player up to that point.

In those closing stages, of the two sides MK Dons came closest to breaking the deadlock. Which really would have set off the alarm bells.

Boxing bill is back at Town Hall

RYAN Aston will tick over and Ricky Summers will return in six-rounders when professional boxing returns to Dudley Town Hall.

The venue hosts paid pugilists for the first time in eight-and-a-half years on Saturday, with Paul 'PJ' Rowson again the promoter.

Darren McDermott headlined the last card there on Thursday 28 June 2007, winning the Midlands middleweight title with a second round stoppage of Conroy McIntosh.

'The Black Country Bodysnatcher,' now 35 and retired, moved on from there to win the English crown and challenge for both the British and Commonwealth belts.

Now the new generation of fighters will be expected to restore old glories with Dudley's Aston – who was coached by McDermott as a child at Priory Park Boxing Club – top of the bill.

'Tank' is a top contender to the English light middleweight strap, having defeated Nathan Graham by fourth round TKO in an eliminator.

The 24-year-old southpaw tunes up against Christian Hoskin-Gomez, who should provide stubborn opposition after his recent run.

The Devon-based Spaniard, with 13 bouts on his record at just 20, has taken two points wins and a draw from his last three outings.

He's boxed in the Black Country before, too, and went the distance with Midlands super middleweight champion Andrew Robinson last year.

Tipton's Summers provides chief support in his first outing for nearly nine months, after taking a break and switching coaches to join up with Jon Pegg.

Tickets, are £35, £50 ringside and £70 stage, are on sale now. For more information, call 07976 283 157.

Bright gets outing with the Under-21s

STRIKER Bright Enobakhare was back in Wolves colours at the weekend.

The teenager, who was last week disciplined for going AWOL, made a 30-minute appearance off the bench during a 1-0 defeat for Wolves' under-21 team against Derby County.

It was Enobakhare's first action for a month.

Also in action was Icelandic forward Bjorn Sigurdarson who played 90 minutes as he continues his comeback from a serious back injury.

Ethan Ebanks-Landell played the full match as Wolves went down to a late winner from Kyron Stabana.

★★★

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford.
Thursday, December 3, 2015

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
The recycled content of newspapers in 2014 was 78.5%

Domino's
Stourbridge Industrial Estate, Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge DY8 1JN
01384 374666
Opening Hours: Sun-Thurs 11.30 am-11 pm, Fri-Sat 11.30 am-12 midnight
Not valid with any other offer. Expiry date: 03/01/2016

the COLLECTION special
40% OFF ALL PIZZAS
COLLECTION ONLY
Discount applies to regular menu price
Premium crust and base charged extra

the WEEKDAY special
ANY CLASSIC CRUST PIZZA* + GARLIC PIZZA BREAD + COLESLAW
Medium £12.99 Large £14.99
Mon-Thurs only. Pizza from the menu or create your own up to 4 toppings. Premium bases and crusts charged as extra

the SAVER deal
ANY CLASSIC CRUST PIZZA* + 1 SUMPTUOUS SIDE + 1 ANY SIDE
SMALL £13.99 LARGE £18.99 MEDIUM £16.99
Pizza from the menu or create your own up to 4 toppings. Premium bases and crusts charged as extra. Any side excludes combos and 14/21 chicken portions.

the SECOND PIZZA deal
BUY ONE PIZZA* GET A 2ND FOR £5
First pizza at regular manu price. Second pizza of equal or lesser value. Premium crust and base charged extra

the ONLINE deal
£10 OFF
WHEN YOU SPEND £30 OR MORE ONLINE AT WWW.DOMINOS.CO.UK
CODE: TENDSKTH
Discount applies at regular menu price. Excludes ice creams and 14/21 chicken portions

the FAMILY feast
ANY 2 PIZZAS* + GARLIC PIZZA BREAD + POTATO WEDGES + BOTTLE OF DRINK
Medium £22.99 or Large £25.99
Pizza from the menu or create your own up to 4 toppings. Premium bases and crusts charged as extra